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MILITARY AFFAIRS

No. 1806



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MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

POTENTIAL PARTY MEMBERSHIP DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Sep 83 p 2

[Article, published under the heading "Party Affairs: The Moral Atmosphere of the Collective," by Lt Col V. Solov'yev, Southern Group of Forces: "Comrades' Opinion"]

[Text] Most of the battalion Communists at the party meeting were unanimous: Sr Lt D. Tsapikov should not be accepted to full party membership.

"Who could have imagined that this would happen?" Party committee secretary Sr Lt D. Lapshinov, subunit deputy party bureau secretary, said with emotion in his voice. "After all, Tsapikov was given recommendations by the battalion executive officer and his battery commander.

"It means they were wrong?"

"Apparently so...."

The recommending officers particularly stressed Tsapikov's good organizing ability. The subunit Communists who spoke at the meeting did not deny this. They even recalled how skillfully he had conducted a demonstration class in the platoon on special training and what ingenuity and zeal he had displayed in setting up and equipping a training classroom. Nor did Tsapikov shirk his job duties, and he was a good family man -- just as had been stated in the recommendations.

While discussing this, however, many party members stressed details of the officer's conduct which perhaps had slipped by some of his superiors but which were glaringly in evidence to those standing closer to Tsapikov, as they say. He seemed two-faced to his comrades: frequent rudeness toward his subordinates, a scornful tone, haughtiness toward his equals -- while at the same time a great show of respectfulness, verging on obsequiousness, toward his seniors in rank and position. He was capable of going on and on from the speaker's platform, saying the correct things about sensitivity and attention toward others, but he avoided going more deeply into the men's needs or spending any time talking with the men. When it was to his benefit, when it would help his reputation, Tsapikov would work conscientiously, but in other instances he could be indifferent toward his work.

They had attempted to correct Tsapikov time and again, but he would not heed the words of his fellow officers. And this also was significant.

This is why the subunit party members decided at the meeting that it was premature to accept Tsapikov into party ranks.

"Yes, both we and Tsapikov got an instructive lesson at the meeting," the party committee secretary stated pensively. "We have a good deal to think about. We were unable to see the substance of this individual through the display of vigorous activity, and this fact itself merits a separate discussion. The main thing now is to help Tsapikov soberly evaluate what has taken place and to draw the proper conclusions."

"We definitely will help him. Particularly since it seems that he has correctly grasped what has happened and is deeply chagrined...."

A thought came to me as I happened to witness this conversation: sometimes there are few things which are comparable in depth of moral effect on a person as a kind word or word of censure by one's fellow soldiers, party organization comrades, and they know him better than anybody else. And it is so important to talk frankly to a party member about his errors of omission in his work and about his character deficiencies. As was pointed out at the June (1983) CPSU Central Committee Plenum, it is necessary to make full use of public opinion in indoctrinating people and in combating deficiencies.

I believe that the force of public opinion, a healthy moral atmosphere prevailing in a party organization, and sincere participation by his comrades will help rectify Senior Lieutenant Tsapikov. Just as all this played a decisive role in the future of another officer, Capt V. Makrushin. Makrushin was received with warmth and friendliness in the motorized rifle battalion to which he had been assigned as executive officer. Battalion commander Capt Sh. Bashenov and party organization secretary Sr Lt G. Mikhaylov gave him a detailed briefing on things, told him about their concerns and about problem points in the training process which they would now be seeking to correct through joint efforts. They stated that they were counting a great deal on Makrushin's experience and knowledge.

Unfortunately complaints about Makrushin began to be heard: he had done a poor job of preparing personnel for a demonstration driving class, had omitted a great deal in organizing officer commander training, and had failed to carry out certain assignments. And the reason was not at all the fact that he, as sometimes is the case with a new man in the collective, was not able to get into the swing of things right away. It was ascertained that the whole problem lay in this party member's attitude toward his job. Counting on the knowledge he already possessed, he virtually ceased improving his ideological-theoretical and specialized training and began falling behind the demands of the present day. Bashenov and Mikhaylov tried to help him, but he reacted in an oversensitive manner: all you talk about are my shortcomings, but you fail to notice my hard work, the fact that I am pulling my weight.

Of course things could not continue to go on that way. And when Makrushin next "chewed out" one of the platoon commanders, the matter of his work style was placed on the agenda at a party bureau meeting. He listened to a good many harsh but quite correct words from his party organization comrades. He realized that henceforth tough and firm demands would be made of him and that in the party collective he would be appraised not on the basis of past achievements but according to today's results. And this had an indoctrinal effect. Now Captain Makrushin is one of the best officers at his job and enjoys deserved respect.

Words spoken from the podium at a party meeting of course carry special weight and exert particular influence on people. Here you definitely expect your assessments, critical comments, and suggestions to attract general attention and to evoke a response on the part of the commanding officer and party agency. Unfortunately this is not always the case.

Sr Lt V. Korolev spoke at a party meeting of one of the subunits. He stated that party member Maj F. Koneyev was permitting personnel to fail to perform scheduled training, was permitting instances of deception (sometimes training classes are not held, but the training topics are noted in the log as having been covered). And he had virtually withdrawn from training and indoctrinating young officers. Party member Korolev also presented a number of interesting suggestions -- how to utilize training facilities more efficiently during training classes and how more efficiently to utilize available time in performing fire missions.

In response, however, party member Koneyev proceeded to claim "objective circumstances" and to make vague statements to the effect that it is one thing to look at a matter "from the trenches" and quite a different thing altogether to view it from a commanding height. And he stated that the accusations of Korolev were unsubstantiated, since he "lacked breadth of view." In general he attempted to obfuscate the fact of his own mistakes and to justify them with flowery phrases, to evade just criticism.

These points were brought home to him by his fellow party members, including leader personnel, who fully supported Korolev. It seemed that Koneyev got the picture, drawing correct conclusions for himself at the meeting. But time passed, and things did not progress beyond words. He was repeatedly reminded of the necessity of taking practical steps to implement the critical comments and suggestions, but subsequently the party committee was forced to intervene and take vigorous steps to correct this comrade. And finally changes were noted. Organization of training classes improved, other shortcomings were corrected, and Koneyev's work style also changed for the better to a great extent. Thus a party member's statements served as an inspiration for serious measures by the party organization.

Here is a contrasting example. Party member Lt A. Sukhanov once appealed to the political department. He was concerned by the fact that unit staff officer Lt Col Yu. Konnov, although aware of mismanagement on the part of certain officials, was doing nothing about it. Konnov had been spoken to about this in the past, but he had responded oversensitively to warnings by party members,

stating that he could handle things without outside interference. And... everything continued as before.

Political department officers were forced to take vigorous intervening steps. The situation was corrected, and the guilty parties were made to answer. But we did not stop with this. We asked ourselves the question: why was it that a party member was forced to appeal to the political department, and why did another party member send a letter about the same situation to higher authorities? It seems that their views were not supported by political worker Maj M. Demchenko or by party bureau secretary Capt V. Bablyuk.

These two examples characterize first and foremost the differing attitude by party agencies toward the opinion of party members and toward their response to errors of omission which they could not ignore. In the one case the party bureau did not merely support the party member but also showed firmness in implementing critical comments and suggestions stated by him at a party meeting, thus demonstrating publicly and in a practical manner that the high-principled opinion of each individual was supported. Naturally such an attitude does more than any appeals to help develop in party members an aggressive experiential posture and helps form a healthy climate in the community, increasing the influence of this climate on the state of affairs in the subunit. Party members unfortunately received a completely different lesson in the case of Sukhanov.

The truth is obvious: the party organization cannot be indifferent toward the opinion of a party member, while his activeness increases when what he has to say is listened to and heeded. It is also obvious that publicity, open discussion of successes and failures creates a healthy atmosphere in the collective, and then each individual will speak the truth to his comrade face to face, rather than ignoring shortcomings. Then there will be no room for the notorious principle of "that is none of my business," and personal and public concerns will be interwoven together.

This must be borne in mind at all times. It is particularly important to remember this at the present time, when the report and election campaign is beginning -- a review of our party ranks. "The interests of our cause demand that the opinion of Communists, their suggestions and comments be considered in decisions which are made, that they be communicated to the appropriate party and economic agencies..." states the CPSU Central Committee decree on holding reports and elections in party organizations.

To develop a critical attitude on the part of Communists toward themselves and their comrades, the ability to be firm and frank in assessments means increasing the militance of the party organization and its influence on resolving problems of strengthening military discipline and combat readiness.

3024
CSO: 1801/001

MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

ACTIVITIES OF POLITICAL WORKER DESCRIBED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Sep 82 p 2

[Article by KR correspondent Lt Col M. Ziyemin'sh, Red-Banner Volga Military District: "The Profession of Political Worker: Day by Day"]

[Text] "There she is, my garrison!" Maj Sergey Yevgen'yevich Lyubushin smiled broadly and extended his arms, as if embracing the steppe horizon. Up ahead the white multistory buildings of the military post rose above the dry, sun-parched valley. Fluffy white clouds drifted overhead.

Major Lyubushin had been stationed at the post only a few months, being assigned there immediately upon graduating from the academy. But one could clearly sense that he had already become strongly attached to this steppe, to this garrison, to its people, and to his work-filled position of deputy regimental commander for political affairs. Lyubushin readily talks about it, as if checking himself again and again: had he proceeded correctly, had he done it the right way?

Personal Evaluation Report

I immediately sensed that the conversation with the party committee secretary would be a long one. I don't know why, but I had this feeling. And I was right. We discussed a recent conference of young political workers, a forthcoming exercise, covered a few additional matters, when suddenly the secretary informed me that an efficiency report was being prepared on one of the party members. He fell silent a moment, and then asked me if I would help prepare a party evaluation report on him.

A personal evaluation report; but I had been in the regiment not very long. But of course I knew Lt Col V. Geraskin, the individual in question. It is true that I did not know him well enough to make a detailed evaluation of him. I must say that the request somewhat perplexed me. What should I do? On the one hand I could of course decline to participate in preparing the personal evaluation. This would be a correct thing to do, technically. But then there was the question of all this person, a senior officer, had gotten into such a predicament. Perhaps there was some unseen factor here which ultimately had brought the regiment to this situation.

I decided that first I would find out the party committee secretary's view on the matter. He gave an unexpected reply: "Conscientious, efficient, industrious,

energetic...." Would you believe it? But then how do you jibe diligence and Geraskin's errors of omission? Conscientiousness and the questioning of performance?

I mentioned this to the party committee secretary, and he felt practically insulted: "So you are already against Geras'kin, without even knowing him...."

I explained by position. I asked for time to become better acquainted with the individual, to get to know him better. Nevertheless we discussed him and what had happened.

And you know what? The officer is indeed a go-getter, always getting things accomplished. He goes off somewhere to make arrangements, and suddenly the next day building materials appear, and soon the men begin erecting a new fence around the post. A problem came up with local economic officials -- he went out and settled the matter immediately. And that is the way things went day after day: either he himself would go somewhere, or somebody would come to see him.

But then the battalion received a poor mark at a live-fire tactical exercise. What was the reason? It seems that Lieutenant Colonel Geraskin, acting as exercise director, had done a poor job of mastering the method of holding such exercises and knew absolutely nothing about the possibilities of the range facility.

I checked to see how Lieutenant Colonel Geras'kin performed his other duties. They included holding commander training classes. Had he held any? He had not. He was supposed to do indoctrination work with personnel. What had he done? Nothing other than discussing two or three breaches of regulations. He had not even taken the time to hold a political briefing session in the subunit.

Finally an instructive day arrived, quite frankly, both for me and the party committee secretary.

"What is it going to be?" he asked me.

"Quite simple," I replied. "How should we evaluate individuals? According to their actions. According to their ability to organize their job. According to how they perform their job duties. According to their sense of responsibility for the assigned task. And it is not so difficult to answer these questions. One need only take a look at the regulations. Have you done so?"

The secretary remained silent, squirming uncomfortably on his chair. I had frankly touched upon a sore spot. The fact is that we do not know how to evaluate people. In addition, sometimes we do not know how it should be done properly, and we forget that each individual has his duties. And the criterion of evaluation also depends on how an officer performs these duties.

In short, we took military regulations, found the appropriate chapter and proceeded to compare how Lieutenant Colonel Geras'kin was performing his duties. We compared literally point by point, line by line. A less than happy picture emerged. On every single point, he had not done as he should have done. Take such a duty as working persistently on improving his methods skills. He had

long since forgotten about this. Incidentally, just as he had forgotten that it was his duty to study and adopt in a practical manner all new and advanced points which help increase effectiveness of training and indoctrinating personnel. He was also far from political, legal and military indoctrination of personnel, and he failed to rely on the party and Komsomol organizations in his activities.

When we analyzed, point by point, to what extent this officer's actions were in conformity with his duties as prescribed by regulations, the performance evaluation gradually took form -- an objective evaluation, without embellishment. I remember how surprised the party committee secretary was when it was completed: "But I thought..." he said.

I don't actually know what he "thought." There was only the external appearance that this officer did a good deal of work and was doing a good job. As it turned out, he is one of those individuals who merely create the appearance of tireless activity.

I remembered when my classmate and I were on our way to our duty assignment at this garrison and thinking about how we would begin our job. We talked about the main element, the need to concentrate efforts on key items.

Life in the regiment taught us that it is necessary to be concerned first and foremost to ensure that each individual matches his assigned job.

Success

Recently a correspondent from the district newspaper visited us. He said that he had heard about the successful performance of the battalion under the command of Major Pivovarov. Inspecting officers from district headquarters had given it high marks in combat training. How would you feel, he said, if the newspaper featured the battalion commander?

How would I feel? Well, the battalion indeed had produced the best combat readiness results in the regiment. And of course that does not come by itself. Good performance is not achieved by mere happenstance. Marksmanship, driving, and tactical training, as I myself well know, are disciplines in which not much can be accomplished by mere burst of enthusiasm and appeals to perform. But there is another question: at what cost was success achieved?

There is the problem. Judge for yourself: once again we are talking about that same battalion -- they are praised for their successes. But this does not please them. And, you know, there is a reason for this reaction.

We already knew that the situation had become quite difficult in the battalion. Morale was poor in the collective: there was an unhealthy haste, an all-hands-on-deck atmosphere, last-minute rush work. The commanding officer's first reaction to shortcomings was to put somebody on report. They were even joking ironically about this. They were saying that the battalion officers were literally up to their ears with being put on report. This was Major Pivovarov's work style at that time.

I stated to the correspondent: of course it is flattering when nice things are being said throughout the district about people in our regiment, but in this case it is a bit premature to write up the battalion. I recommended, and the regimental commander seconded my recommendation, that he write about company commander Capt Aleksandr Korshin. He is a person who does not immediately stand out in a crowd, as they say. But one can count on him at all times and in all things. So take a look at this company, and you will see for yourself. there is perfect order, with everything going like clockwork. The barracks are clean and comfortable. And that is the way it is in all things. He knows each and every man, their strong and weak points. His concern is felt in all areas of company life and combat training. He has a solid understanding of his responsibility for the state of combat and political training. And his company is the best in the regiment. This is the kind of people who should be publicized!

I mentioned this for a reason. There are many examples where the results of combat and political training in a subunit would seem to be excellent, and yet the daily level of organization of duty activities, order within the unit, morale and the psychological atmosphere within the collective are far from what would be desired, from those high demands which the party today places on each and every one of us, on our daily discipline, organization, and responsibility. Can the success of such a collective be steady and continuing?

Until recently we have not had a consensus view on this problem. It is probably for this reason that somebody recommended Major Pivovarov and his battalion as a model. But now such mistakes are out of the question.

People

I once went into one of the company areas and saw that a soldier was about to get some rest following a detail. I walked closer, and stopped short: his pillow had no pillowcase, and there was no sheet on the bed. This was the first time since I had been in the service that I had encountered such a disgraceful situation. Have you run out of sheets? I asked the company commander. No, there are plenty in supply. Is there nobody and nowhere to iron them? The same answer. Our bath and laundry combine is only 60 percent work-loaded. I finally determined that the soldier had been away from his company for an extended period of time, and they were slow about putting him back on regular allowance issue.

I went to see the battalion political worker. I found him working on some complicated calculations and diagrams. I took a look at them and read them. There were all kinds of figures: comparative figures on violations of military discipline, a qualitative description of personnel, and a sociological breakdown card....

The officer was working on an analysis of the nature of military disciplinary infractions. Yes, they occur in the battalion. But why? Judging from the papers, they know everything there is to know about all personnel. I asked the political worker if he knew that in a certain company a certain soldier was sleeping without bed linen. No, he had heard nothing about it. As it turns out, a person works with people, not with papers.

It seems to me that sometimes we lack elementary attention toward people. And yet people are the main thing. Everything depends on man. Every task is formulated by people. We were given a strong reminder of this by the CPSU Central Committee at the June Plenum. Without attention to man proper it is impossible to reach each individual, to raise the consciousness of each individual, to gain people's enthusiasm and to mobilize their will.

I recall an incident involving Capt A. Odintsov. Shall I tell it? During the first days after I arrived in the unit I frequently heard this name -- Odintsov. He was a constant subject of discussion, with rather unflattering comments being made. The only way to get things straight was to hold a comrade officers' court of honor....

The commanding officer and I summoned Odintsov in for an interview. He showed surprise: "What do you mean interview?" He had a guarded manner, waiting to see what would come next. Sit down, Captain Odintsov, the commanding officer said to him, and tell us why such unflattering things are being said about you. We learned from what he told us that there had once occurred a violation of military discipline in his company. Since the "higher-ups" found out about it, they gained the impression about this officer that he had a negligent attitude toward performance of his job duties. Everybody had become accustomed to this opinion, and it was difficult to change. And this had been very hard on him....

Would you like to know how it all ended? Things came out fine in the end. Captain Odintsov is doing a fine job.

* * *

As these lines were being written, a panel headed by district commander Col Gen A. Ryakhov was convening in the combined unit of which the regiment is an element. As was noted at the panel hearing, the regiment was no longer lagging in performance. Combat and political training were adjudged to be good, political indoctrination work is being done skillfully, and the work style of the regiment's deputy commander for political affairs has been given good marks.

3024
CSO: 1801/001

ARMED FORCES

MORAL TRAINING RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMANDER, PARTY WORKER, KOMSOMOL ORGANIZATION

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Aug 83 p 2

[Article by Lieutenant Colonel Yu. Pervov of the Southern Group of Forces:
"Apart from the Main One"]

[Text] A gross breach of discipline occurred in a battalion which a long time ago was considered a leading one, and in the company that is commanded by Officer P. Kozlov. Mildly speaking, two soldiers had an argument with each other. Many officials had to thoroughly investigate the matter in the subunit and in a new way evaluate the effectiveness of measures being conducted here in the interests of strengthening friendship and military comradeship. And that's how it is that serious omissions and miscalculations came to light in educational work with people, and one of the main reasons also became apparent: the leading workers became content and thought that the next time success would come all by itself. And they were mistaken, of course.

Those who were checking truly noted formalism and cliché beginning to show in many spheres of life and service of the subunit. An analysis of what occurred left no doubts about the fact that, to a large degree, the inertness of junior commanders contributed to the dangerous development of events. Yes, the sergeants kept silent and ostensibly didn't sense that something wrong was going on in the barracks. How could such a thing come to pass? Undoubtedly, a reduction of exacting requirements from them on the part of officers, who were scarcely concerned about affirming the sergeants' authority and improving their ideological-political training, has played its part.

Something similar was heard also in several other subunits and it was apparent that only the unified efforts of a commander, the political workers, and party and Komsomol organizations and the active use of all means of educational influence on people could create a barrier on the path of negative occurrences. And included in this are the many possibilities of a cultural-enlightenment institution. Alas, it appeared as the weak link in this chain.

When we met, Captain V. Postnikov, to my surprise, was in extremely good humor and thought that he had no cause for concern. In his opinion, the unit's club,

which he was in charge of, was doing a lot to properly organize the soldiers' spare time and to propagandize military traditions. I had to get the conversation with him around to something more specific.

"Questions of propagandizing regulation requirements?" the captain asked again.
"Of course, we're concerned with them also."

He took several sheets--a plan of appropriate measures--from a file. The plan was really quite large: both a plan of subjects for a morning performance on "I swore and I won't go back on it," a readers' conference devoted to the moral make-up of a Soviet soldier in fiction, an evening of questions and answers on legal topics, and a film lecture on "There is such a profession--defending the motherland." In short, especially in regards to the point, there was a full clip of necessary forms of club work. However, as it turned out here, not one of the measures has yet been implemented.

And you know, if the unit's cultural-enlightenment workers were more observant and more interested relevant to the common concern, no doubt, in questions of strengthening discipline and rallying a military collective, they would utter their opinion as well. Wouldn't they derive a benefit, let's say, from evenings honoring the best squad and team commanders, appearances on local television and radio of right flank participants in competition, and talks by staff officers on the subjects of military pedagogy and psychology with a practical critique of the actions of sergeants on a daily detail and in other official situations? In short, the club's soviet had every opportunity to render active assistance to the commander in strengthening discipline and regulation order. But it had neither enough initiative nor enough drive in this matter. The senior comrades also didn't prompt and orient cultural-enlightenment workers in a timely fashion.

Unfortunately, it is also possible to direct similar reproach at the commander of the cultural enlightenment institution of a higher-rank- the garrison's officers' club. Major D. Kolomyets showed me around the visual display on agitation located in the foyer and this is what was striking. The one that looked the most striking in appearance among all the stands was the one on which there were orders of the different service branches, the order of the day, and other regulating documents. We can say frankly that a stand with several photographs of leading training and service workers looked somewhat pale next to it. Generally speaking, a place wasn't found for propagandizing statutes on the military oath and military regulations in the visual display on agitation. How is it they didn't recall the requirement of the June Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee concerning more efficient use of the rich arsenal of resources for enlightenment and education and their application in a more active and creative way.

It appears that the leading experience amassed by the garrison's officers' club, which is headed by Major A. Sinitsyn, and the unit's club, where the commander is Senior Lieutenant V. Kozlov, could awaken such activity. Efficiently coordinating their work with tasks of the subunits, cultural-enlightenment

institutions propagandize Lenin's behests to Soviet soldiers and organize lecture series, film lectures, and topical evenings on the importance of discipline and organization in maintaining high combat readiness. For example, everyone still remembers the recent evening honoring Senior Lieutenant R. Sharafutdinov, the best company commander, and Warrant Officer N. Bezlepkin, the best first sergeant in the subunit.

Captain Postnikov said to me later, "Without fail, we are armed with Major Sinitsyn's experience." I wanted to believe that the enthusiasm which resounded in his words will be realized in specific deeds, and that the cultural-enlightenment institution will become a reliable assistant to the commander in maintaining firm regulation order and military discipline.

9889
CSO: 1801/470

ARMED FORCES

SHORTCOMINGS IN LEGAL-EDUCATIONAL PROCESS DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Aug 83 p 2

[Article by Chief Military Procurator Colonel General of Justice A. Gornyy:
"Strengthening Regulation Order"]

[Text] Military service in our country is called by right the school of life and the school of education. In many respects here, they justly connect its educational influence on a person with the irreproachable order in the entire tenor of army and navy life. And indeed, the validity and fairness of any demand of a commander and superior are perceived much faster by young people, if there are numerous examples of their colleagues' industriousness before their eyes and, as a result of this, their successes in military matters. It is by the sheer force of this that everyone around rigorously carries out the order of the day and his service duties, and that at the prescribed hour established activities are being carried out and various measures are being organized to become more easily accustomed to the general rhythm, to see one's own place in solving tasks confronting the subunit and the unit, and to be filled with a personal responsibility for achieving that which is planned.

A distinguishing feature and the most important condition of Soviet military order is that it is based on the principles of socialist law which are common for all of our society. The concept itself of Soviet military discipline is defined as the rigorous and precise observance by all military servicemen of the order and rules established by Soviet laws and military regulations. Soviet soldiers enjoy full rights as citizens of the country and even those features of their legal status which result from the conditions of military service and are clearly regulated by country-wide legislation. All these establishments of the socialist public state take into consideration both the goals and tasks of the state and the armed forces and the rights and interests of the individual person. Precisely therefore based on laws and regulations, activities, actions and solutions will always be uniquely correct and just. And the words, which were heard from the rostrum of the June 1983 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee concerning the fact that normal progress of our social development is inconceivable without the most rigorous observance of laws protecting the interests of society and the rights of citizens, are filled with a quite special meaning for us military people. Because it is possible only in a legal situation to maintain the order that molds the personality of a Soviet soldier-citizen.

In strict accordance with regulations and laws, the results of just those kinds of activities by commanders, political organs, and party and Komsomol organizations are quite visible in a majority of the units. For example, on the missile cruiser "Kirov" and in the motorized rifle regiment commanded by Hero of the Soviet Union Lieutenant Colonel Ye. Vysotskiy, cases of gross breach of military discipline were gotten rid of long ago and high results were achieved in the combat perfection of soldiers. And that is a result not only of well-organized training-educational work. The influence on people of the legal situation itself and the firm regulation order also was important. I'll say more: every propaganda measure included in the legal education system for personnel proves to be much more effective in a situation of that kind. And this is quite natural: hourly people are convinced that the requirements of laws and regulations are not only proclaimed from a rostrum, but also are accomplished in a practical way.

Today our party is especially sharply raising the question concerning the connection between word and deed. I want to dwell on it at more length in connection with organizing the legal education of military servicemen. As is generally known, a well-composed system for this kind of work was formed long ago in the army and the navy. For example, it is very likely today that there is not a unit where appropriate instruction is not being conducted and many other forms of propaganda for legal knowledge are not being used. The volume of this activity is even indicated by the fact that officers of the military procurator's office only collaborate annually in 30-40 percent of legislative enactments each. However also, every once in awhile we encounter absolutely intolerable cases as a result of propagandists' activity of that kind.

Why is this? Did someone interpret the law poorly? There is no doing without this. In legal propaganda there is still a lot of both formalism and cliché and timidity, and at times idleness of thought--all those shortcomings which were subjected to severe criticism at the June Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. However the essential reason for poor efficiency at times of the legal-educational process is seen as well in the fact that a word about the law is not always backed by concern for its binding effect. Along with that, as was mentioned at the plenum, ideological activity by itself can't resolve both economic and social problems. Only a merging of ideological-educational work with the political, organizational and economic provides the necessary effect.

In what way specifically is the break between the propaganda of legal regulations and their implementation sometimes manifested? First of all in the fact that some commanders and superiors are still inclined to identify regulation order with internal order in the barracks and quarters, and with ostentatious gloss like this. However this is far from the case. Regulation order is the efficient organization of the servicemen's entire training, service, mode of life and relaxation; providing them with the necessary allowances according to norms; rigorous observance of the order of the day; each one performing his own service duties; and proper mutual relations. And essentially in the subunit when they are concerned only with the external aspect of things instead of work, an approach of that kind avenges without fail through costs of education.

For example, didn't that really just happen in the subunit commanded by Captain G. Volozhinets? A weakness in organizing regulation order here was expressed more or less also in small deviations from established rules. Let's say deputy platoon commanders and squad commanders didn't think it necessary to constantly know where their subordinates are. And other superiors didn't check to see if their subordinates are present for duty. Thereby, having breached completely certain requirements of the regulations, officers and sergeants are actually kept from supervising those things in which their personnel are engaged. And what about it? For a long time here nobody noticed the absence of two soldiers who went away to their fellow countrymen in a completely different unit. In this case it is important to emphasize also that nobody in that other unit noticed the peculiar "reinforcement." In fact, as it turned out, Captain Volozhinets's subordinates also came to dinner there and relaxed in the barracks. It's quite obvious that it is by no means possible to call the order by the name "regulation" in the units named. Although the duty persons there give commands in a clear voice and the bunks are tucked in properly, it's not possible.

It's clear that maintaining regulation order and supporting it is possible only on the basis of an exacting attitude towards any deviations from the norm. However, up to now, cases of impunity for violators of discipline still persist. Let's say, once Private M. Lopatin rudely treated his colleagues of a later conscription. Having found out about this, it would seem that Colonel L. Dudarenko who was commander of the unit at that time should have taken the most rigorous measures against the rude fellow. You know, that infringed upon that holy of holies--military comradeship. No, the officer did not take the prescribed measures. You see, as a whole the subunit was considered satisfactory. But impunity does not pass on without leaving a trace. And that same Lopatin shortly after committed an even more dangerous offense. *

However, the consequences of concealing transgressions of the law are determined not only by this. As it turned out, and after taking the measures established by law against Private Lopatin, some of the military servicemen in this unit continued to think: the law, they say, functions only in extreme cases and "petty" violations (the first rudeness of a soldier towards a colleague), they say, are fully permissible. And so, we are still faced with working much more in order to get rid of that point of view.

Unfortunately also, the conduct of individual senior commanders and their appraisals of the actions of subordinates leads one's associates to the idea that some deviations from established rules are fully permissible.

Officer V. But visited with me for awhile recently at a reception. He complained about the harshness of measures taken against him: he was removed from his job and presented for transfer to the reserve. I had to take the materials, which after all were enough, of the voluminous file and marvel at how such contradictory data about this man turned out to be under one cover. A "promising officer" was the way Lieutenant General of Engineer Troops P. Grebenyuk recommended the subordinate. And next to it in the file were fictitious ratings drawn up in accordance with the indication of "promising" officer. Here is his

official card in which there are only encouragements and immediately following are testimonies of his unworthy conduct. No, there are no doubts that they dealt with him properly in this case, that's for certain now. Another thing became clear: to a large degree, the connivance of superiors led to the unfortunate finale of a person who really had no time to show promise.

I still want to emphasize: closing one's eyes to violators of our military order not only harms matters and not only does not attach proper importance to those offenses. It hinders many people in correctly evaluating what is happening and has an adverse effect on their moral maturity. Even the most active propaganda of legal knowledge cannot yield the desired result here. And what is more, it is capable of engendering among listeners a false opinion concerning the fact that they say it must be somewhat different in life than what is being declared.

The basic form for managing troops is the order of a commander and a superior. As is well known, the law requires that an order be carried out unquestioningly, precisely and on time. Hence it's clear, the moral influence of this act on a person is so great, and it is as important that every decision embodied in the order is correct both in substance and in accordance with the criteria of morals. All this is ensured, if the order meets the primary requirement--legality. The more so, otherwise this act of military management is devoid of state-legal support and is subject to revocation. And this again adversely affects in a most serious manner both the personal authority of the one who issued it and the moral microclimate in a collective.

For example, having rewarded himself with an electronic watch "for successes in service," one can imagine how the authority of Lieutenant Colonel N. Skorokhod suffered. What kind of influence was exerted on subordinates by the decision of Warrant Officer D. Shunin, who confronted them with the task to "procure" the linoleum necessary for trimming the office premises.

It goes without saying that the cases cited above are not characteristic of our armed forces. However, as experience shows also, isolated instances of lawlessness or a simply erroneous decision, and the offense of an official, are capable of damaging the moral education of military servicemen and the growth of their legal consciousness.

The conclusion alone suggests itself: continuing to improve ideological and educational work in the forces, and particularly the legal education of personnel, one cannot forget under any circumstances such a powerful educational factor which is firm order based on the law and regulations. One should be unflaggingly concerned that the word of the law is backed without fail by practical measures in accordance with the confirmation of such order in every unit and in every subunit.

9889
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ARMED FORCES

SERVICEMEN TAKE COMPLAINTS TO KRASNAYA ZVEZDA

Letters to Editor

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Aug 83 p 2

[Text] Red Tape

On 22 August I have served a year in the Limited Contingent of Soviet Forces in Afghanistan. My personal file has still not arrived, however. Requests for the file were sent to my former station twice. Furthermore, I was there myself on a temporary assignment at the beginning of May. I spoke with Major L. Sokolov, assistant chief of staff. He said that the mailing of my personal file had been delayed because there was no... clerk. He assured me, however, that my papers would be sent off immediately after 9 May.

That date is long past, but my personal file has still not arrived. One has the impression that both Major Sokolov and certain other comrades do not consider the established procedure for handling such papers to be mandatory for them. -- Warrant Officer R. Ibragimov

A Television Set... For Two

The subunit commanded by Captain A. Kotov is, frankly, a small one--only two officers and several soldiers. Much to our surprise, we found two television sets in the service area there--one black-and-white and one colored set. Those in charge told us that they mainly watch black-and-white television, while their senior comrades come to watch colored television programs.

The room in which the senior comrades watch television was very tastefully furnished. There was even a fine, large electric fireplace for cold weather. Even this would probably not have seemed so reprehensible, had we not known that the general situation with respect to cultural and educational supplies and equipment in the unit left a lot to be desired, as they say. The television set in the communications subunit, for example, had not worked for a long time, and the antiaircraft gunners in one of the motorized rifle companies had no television set at all. When these matters were brought up Captain S. Bol'shakov, the political worker who accompanied us, attempted to convince the inspectors that these incongruities were not his business.

Unfortunately, we find situations such as this fairly frequently. We find a television set, a record player and a radio in an office, for example, although all of these things should be in the subunits. Some people even feel that it is not "respectible" to have no expensive equipment in the office.

It goes without saying that such views are not in conformity with our concepts of modesty on the part of those in charge. However, we also need to think about the fact that the absence of the proper cultural and educational equipment and supplies in the subunits negatively affects the degree to which the personnel are informed about important events and the organization of their leisure time.
--Lieutenant Colonel F. Fedoryshin, Red Banner Turkestan Military District

Airmen Shorted on Equipment

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Sep 83 p 2

[Text] "Nothing But Assurances"

Commentary by Lieutenant Colonel P. Chernenko on a letter to the editors was published under the above headline on 5 August of this year. The young airmen complained that they were not being provided with the necessary special clothing. The commentary on the letter indicated that the situation had been caused by negligence on the part of officials from the aviation rear service subunit.

Colonel V. Kononenko has reported to the editors that the facts presented in the letter and the commentary have been confirmed. Deficiencies in the provision of flight personnel with the necessary equipment occurred because of unsatisfactory control over the clothing supply service by Lieutenant Colonel V. Uskov, commander of the aviation rear service subunit. Captain V. Mukhin deputy commander for supply, and Senior Lieutenant V. Gavrichkin, chief of the clothing supply service, were negligent in their duties. All of these officers have been disciplined. Communists Gavrichkin and Mukhin have also been held accountable by the party. His relaxation of control over the prompt submission of requests for special clothing for the airmen has been pointed out to Lieutenant Colonel N. Minko, chief of the technical air supply service. Lieutenant Colonel A. Gopko is to report at a meeting of the military council. The young airmen have now been provided with everything necessary for their combat training.

Registration Regulations Create Problems

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Sep 83 p 4

[Article by Lt Col Justice I. Bashkevich: "What Is To Be Done About the Identification Card?"]

[Text] Lieutenant Viktor Kozhikin came to the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reception room. Last year he graduated from an institute in Kursk and was drafted into the army for a 2-year term. He was assigned to one of the air subunits of the Moscow Military District. He is extremely happy with the service, and proud of it. Problems brought him to the editors, however. The lieutenant has a wife and a daughter, but they do not have their own quarters yet and they live with relatives.

The young officer is concerned about more than just having his own roof over his head, however. He thoroughly understands the difficulties of the housing problem. He also understands that although apartments cannot be provided immediately for all those who need them, what is preventing the officials from issuing the proper papers? Papers proving that they have not come to the area on a whim but are carrying out orders and are awaiting an apartment at a specific address. Such a document, or more correctly, the stamp of authority on it, is needed primarily by the wives of the servicemen. Without such a document Lieutenant Kozhikin's wife, as an example, cannot obtain employment or medical treatment for herself or her child. She cannot even take advantage of the women's consultation service, although an addition to the family is expected soon.

The lieutenant placed on the desk a letter from the unit commander to the chief of the desk handling identification cards in the local police department. It is a request for temporary registration of the officer's wife at the address where she actually lives or at the military unit. This request had no effect, however. And the lieutenant feels that the only solution may be to send his wife to live with the parents. Naturally, this would be detrimental to the family's well-being and make it difficult for the lieutenant to be in that good frame of mind so necessary for the performance of one's service duties.

Why could they not issue official confirmation of the present situation, however?

The editors addressed this question to the Main Billeting and Maintenance Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Defense. Here is the reply, signed by Major General D. Kruglikov: In accordance with a decision of the Moscow Oblast Ispolkom, the registering of servicemen and members of their families without considering the housing space norm is only permitted for housing belonging to the USSR Ministry of Defense or the parents of the serviceman or his wife; in other cases excess housing space must be available from a renter in the amount specified by the present norm for each individual to be registered at that address.

This is obviously no real answer. It is only a citing of a well-known fact--and not very clear, at that. Some figures can make the situation clearer. Here they are: The present norm for housing space per person in the RSFSR is 9 square meters, and this will be increased to 12 square meters on 1 January 1984. Therefore, in order for Lieutenant Kozhikin to register his family, he must find the owner of an apartment with excess living space in the amount of 27 square meters. He should hurry, because he will soon have to find an apartment (considering the new norm and the additional family member) of 48 square meters.

Perhaps the people at the Main Billeting and Maintenance Directorate do not understand the situation, however? Or they have not understood what concerns the editors? There are reasons for believing that they know and understand.

The 28 January 1982 issue of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA contained comments from Colonel F. Nikiforov under the headline "If You Handle it Carefully," which was accompanied by editorial commentary. The article was about helping the families of servicemen to register at their new place of residence before receiving an apartment.

Among other things, the attention of commanders and garrison chiefs was directed to the need to make more effective use of the authority granted the ispolkoms of local soviets of people's deputies to register citizens under special conditions (Paragraph 4 of Decree No. 678 passed by the USSR Council of Ministers on 28 August 1974). The newspaper also asked whether the regulation in effect for a number of other categories of citizens (geologists, construction workers and so forth) should not be extended in certain cases to servicemen and members of their families, registering them at the address of the military unit, the organization or establishment. The people do live somewhere, after all, while they await the promised apartment. And some of them simply cannot leave their families at their former duty station--in the case of transfers from a group of forces, for example. And so, it is just a matter of recognizing the waiting as legal.

Incidentally, people agreed with this point of view in the Main Administration for Maintenance of Public Order under the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs. Major General of Militia V. Borisenkov, first deputy chief of the main administration, promised during a talk with a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent to support the appropriate agencies of the USSR Ministry of Defense, if they should come out with such a proposal. Unfortunately, this proposal has still not been worked out. Furthermore, one has the impression that people in the Main Billeting and Maintenance Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Defense feel in general that this is not their concern.

In a response received by the editors to the article "If You Handle it Carefully," the question of registering servicemen and members of their families in special cases was simply ignored. When Major A. Boltakov, one of the newspaper's readers and military commissariat for Kirovskiy Rayon in Kazan, drew increasing attention to this matter, he was told in the main directorate: "The matter of temporary registration of servicemen at the address of the military unit, establishment or organization, which was brought up by the editors of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, did not produce any changes in the existing laws." There you have it. It is as though the main directorate itself has absolutely nothing to do with the matter.

In the meantime, numerous concerns of life continue to trouble many people. The editors received some letters in response to their article. On 21 July of last year the newspaper had an article on the ordeals of Major N. Kolpashchikov, a student at the Military Academy of Rear Services and Transport. Since his wife was not registered in Leningrad, she could not work there, nor could their son be registered at a school. Responding to this report, Lieutenant General G. Chelmatkin, chief of the academy's political department, informed the editors that practically all of the wives of first-year students and some of the wives of second-year students were in exactly the same situation. It should be noted that the situation is no better today. And this is true not just of Leningrad.

This is why Lieutenant V. Kozhikin's visit to the editors was no. unexpected. The position taken by responsible comrades from the Main Billeting and Maintenance Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Defense, who have tried to dissociate themselves from this important matter, is absolutely unexpected, however.

Living Conditions, Services to Be Improved

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Sep 83 p 2

[Text] "Indifference"

A report from Engineer-Colonel B. Lyapkalo was published under the above headline in the 5 August issue. It was about the disordered life of the families of officers and warrant officers in Unit "X."

Colonel A. Galdin has reported to the editors that the newspaper article was discussed at a meeting of the command staff, in the political department, at service conferences and at a meeting of the party bureau in the unit discussed in the article. The necessary construction materials have been allocated for improving the army post, and the procedure has been defined for performing the work. Among other things, a schedule has been established for the completion of an apartment building, which is to be released for occupancy on 1 January 1984. The necessary equipment has been allocated for providing the post with radio broadcasting facilities.

At the customers' request, the store's operating schedule has been changed. A bus schedule has been established for delivering children to school, nursery or kindergarten, and for transporting the wives of servicemen to town.

11499
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ARMED FORCES

OFFICER TAKES MONEY FROM SUBORDINATES

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Aug 83 p 2

[Article by Colonel of Justice I. Ryzhenkov: "They Remained with the Cadre"]

[Text] Having watched some adventure film with a boldly twisted plot, we frequently talk only about the one who was the focus of our attention for the entire performance. Generally, we forget the one who ensures the execution of giddy stunts. Now and then, something of the sort also occurs in life. For confirmation let's refer to a story engraved upon the pages of bulging volumes by workers of the military procurator's office.

Its beginning concerns that day when Major A. Repetskiy, a staff officer, found a way to extract money almost from nothing: he turned in scrap metal in circumvention of existing regulations. He didn't do it personally, but he entrusted this to his subordinate warrant officers A. Pustovoyt and M. Pavlyukov. Of course, each time he took money from them, he emphasized that he was not taking it for himself personally, but for the needs of the unit. And so that nobody doubted this, he called his deputy, Senior Lieutenant B. Kalashnikov, and handed him a certain sum in the presence of witnesses:

"Buy something like musical radio-electronic equipment for the personnel."

However, when the rumor reached the military procurator's office about unaccountable money which Major Repetckiy used at his own discretion, it was found that Senior Lieutenant Kalashnikov just didn't purchase any such musical radio-electronic equipment for the unit. On the contrary, quite often he distributed what was available. For example, one television set turned up in Major Repetckiy's quarters and the second one with a "needy person," I. Skladovskiy, from the KECh [billetting operation unit]. And during the search of an athletic uniform, which supposedly was purchased for football players, an entire warehouse was discovered where Warrant Officer A. Urban, the unit's first sergeant, kept a fair amount of unaccountable property.

After verification, the main characters bore the punishment: Major Repetckiy was removed from his job and demoted and Warrant Officer A. Urban was transferred to the reserve. And as to Senior Lieutenant Kalashnikov, he barely had time to obtain a receipt for returning the money to the state and there he is--he was promoted.

Frankly speaking, the case is uncommon and surprising. It's difficult to say what Lieutenant Colonel A. Galybin, a worker in the regular unit here, was guided by. One thing is clear--his point of view was not noted for being a principled one. The position of the party committee also turned out to be the same: Communist Kalashnikov was not even asked to talk about what had happened. He remained with the cadre, so to speak.

And quite unjustly. Because, as was already mentioned above, Kalashnikov presented his former boss and a "needy person" from the billeting operation unit with a television set apiece. After all, from the beginning these television sets, which are accountable to the unit, should have been written off as allegedly they were completely unserviceable enough it worked out well for Kalashnikov, the operation is not out of the ordinary. Why?

The military procurator's office hoped that people's inspectors will answer these questions in accordance with its request. However, having left thereby another person--V. Mikhaylov, a former civilian employee of the Soviet Army and at that time chief of the radio repair shop--with the cadre, they apparently regarded the matter as of little value. Specifically, for a certain bribe he issued a document to the effect that television set number so-and-so was dismantled for spare parts and so forth and it would no longer exist. Although Mikhaylov also was removed from his job as chief of the repair shop as a result, it was only so that he might become a maintenance engineer for the television station here. Formally, it was as if he were punished, but in reality it was only the same outward show.

But you see our story doesn't end here. Major V. Prikoto was entrusted so far as to hold an administrative investigation for the purpose of taking measures regarding Warrant Officer A. Urban, but, having considered his mission fulfilled in this case, he conscientiously copied the contents of an illegal repository. And he would also certainly go to Captain I. Ignatov, the headquarters executive officer, showing his initiative and great responsibility regarding the matter. That happened time and again at the secret warehouse and he took first shoes and then boots. And he didn't take just one pair. And to whom did he give them and what purpose was he pursuing? For some reason, however, nobody pursued this route and Ignatov, like other parties in the events, also remained with the cadre.

What is evident from these cases? Open condescension and a tendency to conceal the true situation from outside eyes. It is quite clear that through such methods you do not reeducate amateurs who enrich themselves at state expense.

9889
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ARMED FORCES

ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTION WORK AT ARMY CAMP

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Sep 83 p 2

[Article by Col A. Drovosekov and Col N. Murav'yev: "A Pheasant for Prestige" (feuilleton)]

[Text] The investigation showed that Engineer-Colonel L. Nikitin did not feel a desire to leave his name in the history book of one of the army posts in the Transbaikal Military District before the spring of 1980. By this time he felt comfortable with his new position and might perfectly well have asked himself what he could do that would be outstanding. Something that would make them say with respect many years later in the garrison: "Leonid Pavlovich Nikitin built this."

The subsequent course of events requires some imagination. Let us therefore mentally picture Nikitin's office, in which those subordinates closest to him gathered late one evening.

"It has been suggested," the host informed those gathered in his office, "that we build something outstanding on our army post. Something which will make them remember us for a long time. What are your ideas?"

There was a moment of silence. Then someone suggested from the far corner of the room:

"Maybe we could perform capital repair work on the kindergarten? The way it is one is ashamed to look the kids in the eye. The building is falling apart in one spot, part of the ceiling is falling in and one part is entirely in ruins...."

"We're not talking about things like that! Suggest something."

Another moment of silence. Then, from the near corner came the suggestion in an almost whispered, probing and affectionate voice:

"Maybe a complex...."

The last sound had not faded away, when comments began coming from all sides:

"A bathhouse and a swimming pool...."

"And a greenhouse...."

"And a banquet hall...."

"Great! That's just great!" Nikitin said in admiration for his subordinates. He was barely able to write down all the suggestions.

"Now you're thinking big! You're looking to the future! Why with men like you...."

The authors of this feuilleton do not have the minutes of that meeting and cannot vouch for the literal accuracy of the dialog quoted here. But that is not important. The important thing is that under Nikitin's personal supervision an edifice was erected there, the likes of which it would be difficult to find. Nikitin himself was not immediately able to define exactly what they had built. He first called the project a sports complex. After thinking it over, he changed the name to general medical center. Finally, he decided that it was a medical therapy clinic.

It is easy to explain the problem of finding a name for the facility. The builders erected it without planning-estimate documents or blueprints, simply improvising as they went along. The result of the blatantly unlawful project is something midway between the steambaths of the ancient Romans and a luxury hotel, now officially called just a bath-and-hotel complex. It contains a banquet hall, a reception room with a fireplace, a botanical conservatory, a poolroom, a steam-bath and a sauna, a swimming pool with oxygenated water, a shower room with adjustable showers, a kitchen with a serving counter, an 8-room hotel and a native yurt. The latter is made of brick and not the traditional felt, the brick being so cleverly disguised that one does not immediately guess what it is. All of the structures are solidly built and finished with scarce finishing materials--from classical marble to the most modern plastics.

A great deal of creative imagination also went into the complex courtyard. We shall mention two of its attributes: a fishpond and open-air bird cages. Carp grew fat in the former, while steppe eagles were kept in the open-air cages for a touch of the exotic, and brilliantly colored pheasants for prestige.

The complex was opened in December of 1981. The specialists estimate its cost at 320,000 rubles.

It would have taken one tenth of that amount to carry out the capital repair work on the kindergarten. This money was not to be found, of course, just as the workers were not found for the job. Even the construction of an annex to the dining facility was halted. The only thing they came up with for the kindergarten was a vacuum cleaner, and even that was a discard. It hummed along once, a second time, and then fell silent. Apparently forever.

But let us return to the complex.

"Just what was the purpose in building it?" one of the authors of this article inquired of Comrade Nikitin.

"Does that really require explaining?" Leonid Pavlovich asked, his face reflecting annoyance and perplexity. "There could only be one purpose--to improve the cultural opportunities and the lives of the personnel."

It sounds very noble, doesn't it? One simply wants to praise Nikitin for his paternal concern for the military construction workers. One catches oneself, however, and realizes that there is nothing to praise him for. Until that very moment when Leonid Pavlovich realized that he was responsible for the creation, after all, the doors of the complex had been open only to higher officials. Charmed by the beautiful pheasants, they did not even ask the basic question: "Where did you get the 'kindling,' so to speak, to build it"? On the contrary, Nikitin acquired a reputation as a man who gets things done, as an enterprising and hospitable manager (hospitable at the expense of the subsidiary farm).

Some of the officers under Nikitin's command caught the spirit. They also wanted a reputation as enterprising men who get things done, and they therefore went all out for the bathhouse construction. They built hothouses adjoining the baths. They were not officially called hothouses, of course, and the produce raised there was not recorded.

When he was in the military construction detachments, Nikitin seemed not to notice the unlawful construction projects. Talk soon got around, however, that he was very kindly disposed toward those building the bath-hothouse facility and knew how to receive him in the proper grand manner. And there was proof of this. Colonel M. Chorniy, among the first to build a little bathhouse and pool, Nikitin made one of his deputies. He insisted on promoting Lieutenant Colonel I. Lyashkov, who had not coped very well with his former job, to a position of responsibility. Lyashkov had little to recommend him as a leader--his senior chief had relieved him of his position for unbecoming conduct.

Nikitin also demonstrated amazing, hard-to-explain benevolence toward Lieutenant Colonel G. Maksudov, commander of one of the military construction detachments. He should have been severely punished for permitting the work to deteriorate; instead Nikitin praised him in every possible way. The judge advocate, obviously being lenient with Maksudov, demanded that his improper actions be reviewed by an officers' comradely court of honor, but his benefactor did everything he could to see that the court never convened. And so Maksudov was discharged into the reserve without receiving what he had coming.

We can see that Nikitin had his own special style of working with the personnel, under which the obsequious and the flatterers thrived. A recent meeting of the party commission under the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, which approved Nikitin's expulsion from the party, also discussed those whom he had promoted.

"I'll admit," Leonid Pavlovich said, dropping his head, "that there have been certain failings and shortcomings in my work."

A more than modest statement. We therefore have to mention the fact that this is the very Nikitin discussed in the feuilleton "The End of Operation 'DL-3'" (KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 13 June 1982). One would have thought that after the newspaper

article was published, which opened up a page out of Nikitin's recent past, the chiefs would have kept a closer eye on him and tried to learn whether he was committing any new transgressions. This was not done, however, and probably precisely because of this Nikitin, who was given a party reprimand for violating state discipline following the first feuilleton, continued to behave as he had before. It has now been recommended that he be discharged into the reserve and he has been removed from the garrison, but he is remembered. And the memory is not a good one.

With respect to the complex, it is now totally at the use of the garrison residents. And it reminds one that Nikitin did not build it alone. He had assistants, or rather accomplices, in this unlawful deal. Consider Major Intendance Service A. Guzdev, chief of the finance service, for one. His duty demanded that he not provide a single kopeck for the "irregular" construction project, but he diligently sought means of financing it. Duty required that Engineer-Major S. Tatarov resolutely oppose the unlawful construction of the complex, but he himself assumed the role of work superintendent. It occurs to us that it would be just for them also to get what they deserve for their zeal.

Naturally, Colonel L. Snegirev, the political worker, should also be held accountable. Both for the pheasants kept for prestige and for the fact that by failing to interfere, he contributed to the violation of state discipline.

11499
CSO: 1801/509

ARMED FORCES

VETERAN ILLEGALLY DENIED ADMITTANCE TO INSTITUTE

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Aug 83 p 2

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Colonel V. Moroz: "Laws Should Be Observed"]

[Text] Warrant Officer I. Sadykov commanded a motorized rifle platoon and was the first sergeant of a communications unit. Judging by his job performance reports, he handled his duties successfully. He made high showings in sports. Having transferred to the reserve, he decided to enter Ul'yanovsk State Pedagogical Institute imeni I. N. Ul'yanov and join the department of correspondence courses for the "physical training" specialty. It is known that privileges for army, air force and navy warrant officers who have transferred to the reserve were established by VUZ enrollment regulations approved on 31 January 1983 by order number 165 of the USSR minister of higher and secondary specialized education: they are enrolled noncompetitively upon receiving favorable marks on entrance examinations and on the condition of presenting appropriate documents.

I. Sadykov received favorable marks on all the examinations and confirmed through documents that he is a reserve warrant officer, but he didn't become a student. He appealed to Yu. Grushevskiy, vice-rector for instruction by correspondence course, for explanations. The answer was that "you did not compete for a position." The rector of the institute also concurred with this reply.

In the oblast party committee, I. Sadykov was advised to send a statement to the RSFSR ministry of education. The statement was forwarded from the ministry to the institute. In the end, it turned up on the desk of the vice-rector for correspondence course instruction and against whose actions the reserve warrant officer was lodging a complaint. This time Yu. Grushevskiy replied in writing: "Comrade I. N. Sadykov, since you were a warrant officer transferred to the reserve (i.e. a civilian), you are not exercising your right to privileges. Therefore, you competed on a universal basis and did not have a passing grade."

In this connection, I. Sadykov writes to the editorial staff, "I don't know what meaning the vice-rector inserted in the term 'civilian' and in which legal document he found it."

I. Sadykov is right. To put it mildly, the grounds on which he was refused admission to the institute do not conform to the law. Neither in the spirit nor in the letter of the law.

As I. Sadykov writes, his answer was almost two months in being resolved. He enclosed a stack of documents with the letter for confirmation. You read the papers with stamps of authority and wonder: why look for a solution to the question if the answer to it is known? It's provided by the state. Legislatively as well as unambiguously.

Some officials, misinterpreting in their own way or simply not executing the law as prescribed, maintain that they are supposedly being guided by state interests. A letter from Lieutenant D. Zelinskiy speaks precisely about a case of that kind.

The officer writes, "I graduated from the Khar'kov Guards Higher Tank Command School imeni Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet. I received a diploma with honors and a gold medal. I combined my studies with public work and invested a lot of work in improving the training-material base of my alma mater. As an honors student during training, prior to graduation I attempted to avail myself of the right to choose my service post. Of course, within the limits of established order for the school. However, Lieutenant Colonel K. Loban, chief of the personnel department, did not happen to speak with either me or the other cadet medalist, I. Knyazev, on this subject. And what is more, he was ashamed: they say you put personal interests above public ones. I am convinced that public interests require precise execution of established rules. And I'm not fussing about myself in this letter--my service post has been determined. I am upholding a principle."

Having contacted the school, we ascertained that Lieutenant D. Zelinskiy requested an assignment to one of the 29 posts specified in the order for allocating graduates. What prevented considering his request and complying with it, and if it is also denied, is it convincing so that a person is not left insulted?

We hope that the school's command will provide an answer to this question.

The rights we have are inseparable from duties. One performs his military duty in a proper manner and gains an advantage when entering an institute. One gives his all to training and gains the right to choose his service post. The state is vitally interested in these as well as all of its instructions being treated in a valid manner. At the June Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, Comrade Yu. V. Andropov emphasized: "A normal course for our social development is inconceivable without the strictest observance of laws protecting the interests of society and the rights of citizens."

9889
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ARMED FORCES

FEMALE LAWYER ATTEMPTS TO GET SON OUT OF MILITARY

Ashkhabad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 8 Jul 83 p 4

[Article by Counselor of Justice and Procurator-Criminalist of the Turkmen SSR Procurator's Office P. Kushpilenko: "She Was Punished for a Bribe"]

[Text] Transgressing not only the law but also her own conscience and honor, this woman had her first name and surname left, but she lost the dearest and most indispensable thing to every person--the confidence and respect of people. The blame for that is a yearning for gain. Thus, the Leninskiy people's court of Ashkhabad sentenced Sapargul' Mamedova to five years imprisonment by serving punishment in a general routine penal colony. The Ashkhabad oblast court also upheld the sentence.

S. Mamedova is an educated woman. She graduated from the law department of Turkmen State University over 10 years ago, worked in her profession in various government departments, and the last 3 years prior to her arrest as a legal advisor at the Turkmen SSR Ministry of Health. Three years ago, Mamedova saw her son off to regular service in the army, but after some time the son began to send desperate letters to his mother from his service post saying it's difficult and I just can't any more. And the loving mother decided: let the other fellows learn to defend the motherland and my kid should return home ahead of time.

In order to make it well-conceived, Mamedova adopts two children of her relative and as the widow of a deceased husband (a convicted person, incidentally) carries out her plan through the military commissariat.

While her son was in the army, Mamedova became acquainted with citizen O. Kochatova who also saw her son off, won her confidence, maintained constant contact with her, and then decided to twist the friend around her little finger. She convinced O. Kochatova, who also dreamed of releasing her son from army service, that she has connections in the military commissariats of Ashkhabad and Tashkent and that everything is set, but not free gratis of course. In short, Mamedova demanded 5,000 rubles from Kochatova supposedly as payment for "services." Kochatova wasn't able to hand over immediately such a large sum to Mamedova and gave her 3,110 rubles with the remainder promised later.

Mamedova deceived Kochatova for a long time reporting that he is just about to return and everything is "hunky-dory," and she even called the telephone numbers

of military units where Kochatova's son supposedly was transferred. The lucky friend rushed to the long-distance station and using the indicated numbers she called to talk with her son, but on the other end of the line they replied that they had not heard of such a person. Finally, Kochatova understood that quite simply she had been duped and she complained to appropriate organs.

Both during the preliminary investigation and in court, Mamedova rejected the charge brought against her of instigating a bribe and behaved defiantly by claiming that she is the victim of defamatory actions on the part of Kochatova. Justice had to take a great deal of trouble in order to convict Mamedova and expose her true colors.

Mamedova's moral degradation began a long time before she committed the crime. Since youth she made it a principle of life especially not to trouble herself. At one time she was expelled from the student body of Turkmen State Medical Institute for poor progress. Having worked for some time in minor jobs after finishing two years of medical studies, she understood that honest bread is earned only through honest, strenuous labor. Mamedova told herself that living this way is dull. Disciplinary penalties on the job and pretensions to her personal behavior didn't bother her. She used her official status to exchange her apartment for one with a larger area, and, moreover, it was by means of blackmail and threats towards a woman who was literally forced to exchange apartments.

Mamedova had to return to Kochatova the entire sum which the latter had time to turn over to her. Mamedova got her just deserts. Soviet law is severe and inexorable towards people who do not want to work honestly and conscientiously and fulfill their civic duty.

9889
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ARMED FORCES

AUTHOR SUGGESTS OFFICER INSUFFICIENTLY DISCIPLINED FOR INFRACTIONS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Jun 82 p 2

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Lieutenant Colonel B. Karpov: "They Wouldn't Work Harmoniously"]

[Text] Glancing impatiently at the clock, Colonel N. Nesterov listened to the chief of the political department with a vacant look.

"Is that all you have?" he suddenly asked.

Colonel M. Tsukanov automatically stopped talking. Having looked at him condemningly, A. Nesterov uttered:

"Not even a day has passed since you arrived and you're already a pretentious man. Moreover, it is not becoming for a political worker to rise to the defense of transgressors of military discipline."

Tsukanov was embarrassed. Indeed, he had arrived at the unit just yesterday, and then today... But here he recalled the full nature of Warrant Officer B. Gorodnitskiy's offense. On the last day off, he and another warrant officer left together with a group of soldiers for a neighboring kolkhoz to participate in the harvesting. But there it was decided to send them to construction operations. Citing the fact that there were none of the necessary specialists among the soldiers who had come with them and also that the people had no knowledge of equipment safety, the warrant officers refused.

"You'll still remember me," the kolkhoz chairman threatened them. "And soon."

It turned out this way. They recall when Colonel Nesterov, having added on several other far-fetched accusations, including the fact that they supposedly drank beer, to their insubordination towards the kolkhoz chairman, declared an arrest up to 28 days for each of them.

"Nikolay Tikhonovich, you should quietly think this over for awhile and examine everything in detail," Tsukanov suggested. "For all that, what are the people guilty of? Is such harshness lawful? How did they turn out at the kolkhoz?"

"Don't let that worry you," snapped Nesterov. "I sent them to the countryside. I answer for their actions. Let's stop this conversation."

Nevertheless, the next day it was announced that the punishment imposed upon the warrant officers was being revoked.

Unfortunately, this case turned out not to be the only one of its kind. It didn't take much effort to notice that every now and then teams are sent somewhere--5 people with a warrant officer in charge to a kolkhoz and 10 people with a lieutenant in charge to a meat packing plant.

Once, it appeared to Tsukanov, an appropriate opportunity had occurred to share one's disturbing thoughts in confidential surroundings. He saw combat training plans falling through and moral damage being done to people's education.

"You know, that's how it turns out to be." he said to Nesterov. "There's not a civilian enterprise in the vicinity where people from our unit would not work. One can see them anywhere--both in the confectionary factory and in the restaurant."

"But don't get me wrong," Nesterov replied, "all this is being done in the interests of the collective. We need to renovate and improve so much. But where do we get the money and the materials?"

Tsukanov stood his ground, "and we should break such a practice."

"It doesn't matter, it'll come out all right in the end," Nesterov replied vaguely.

People turned to the political department. They complained about Nesterov's rudeness and his arbitrariness and haughty manners. He could scold and humiliate an officer in the presence of subordinates. In a common formation in front of all the unit's personnel, he could give instructions to the secretary of the party commission "to investigate immediately and severely reprimand" one communist or another.

However, he was also sometimes pleasant. He had some connections in town with those who are notable for their "penetrating power" and he could "procure" and "provide." Somehow one of those came to the political department. He announced right at the doorstep that a promotion was planned for him and before this it would be good to "ponder" his joining the party. The reply he received was a deserving one. Shortly after, Nesterov appeared and began to lavish praise in every way--"they say he's a reliable comrade and we should expedite his acceptance in the party"--on the officer whom Tsukanov had just given a dressing down.

"Perhaps, he's reliable in something," the political department chief replied, "but he's obviously not mature enough for the party."

Once again this gave cause for aggravating relations between them.

The unit's communists felt the firmness of character and party integrity of the political department chief, as well as his irreconcilability to shortcomings. Nesterov also felt this. But yet he didn't stop personnel from leaving for other jobs, and he simply began to carefully disguise them. Beginning in the morning, people were sent to the motor pool and they left for the field. In short, it was as if they had set about their training. And then they were driven away to civilian enterprises. This only convinced Tsukanov just how far the disease had gone.

Departing on regular leave, he surmised that a similar enterprise would once again gain sway. He thought about this more than once while on leave. He couldn't bear it and returned to the unit earlier than planned.

Well, crimson from embarrassment, the person on duty at the KPP [control and check point] announced that he has an order not to permit him on the unit's territory. Tsukanov immediately reported everything to the military district's political directorate.

A commission arrived. It exposed many cases of Nesterov's violating regulatory documents, financial discipline, and abuse of his official status. The only thing that remained unclear was the volume of capital earned. The entire organization of seasonal operations was so muddled that even experienced financial personnel couldn't untangle it. In only one of the cases did we manage to establish that approximately 40,000 rubles were earned by the unit's military personnel in the course of several months. Incidentally, none of that considerable renovation of the material-technical base and improvement of the premises, which Nesterov talked about constantly, was observed.

Having received official and party reprimands, it would seem a person must seriously ponder over his conduct and style of work. It happened differently with Nesterov. The first time he really conducted himself quite differently. He became pleasant and circumspect in his expressions. But not for long. Shortly after, his unbridled disposition began to show once again, and he arrogantly emphasized more and more often that he wasn't afraid of anything and he says there is someone in Moscow to protect him. One day he told the political department chief bluntly:

"I had hoped we would find a common language. But now I'm convinced that everything is in vain and we won't work harmoniously."

By this time several other curious facts had also become known. For example, having a four-room apartment at the garrison in which he and his wife lived, Nesterov contrived to have yet another two-room apartment in town. He resolved the question of purchasing a car simply enough. He acquired a "Volga" at the taxi motor pool. At the same one where his subordinates always worked. He

also spent his leave not without sway. Two vehicles set out to the south. Nesterov was driving one and his "confidential agent" Warrant Officer V. Yeliseyev was driving the other one loaded with belongings, provisions, and beverages. And Nesterov made arrangements to provide a special watch for guarding his apartment.

It would seem a person would have already understood long ago that he is conducting himself in an unworthy manner and that his regard for matters and for people is not in keeping with his status as a communist and a leader. Nevertheless, after now receiving a reprimand, he continues to conduct himself just as before. Even if you take the recent occurrence when Nesterov reported to the unit drunk and began to give absurd orders to Captain A. Klepikov's subordinates. The captain said that he will report on all of this to a higher command. He heard something disparaging in reply:

"Merely complain and I'll dismiss him on the spot from his job."

Colonel Nesterov is not simply mistaken and misunderstanding, but he is advocating the unsuitable methods of his work and his amoral conduct in a bellicose way. And how could one not recall the words spoken by Nesterov to the effect that he won't work harmoniously with the political department chief. And it's true in fact--honesty won't work harmoniously with dishonesty, decency with caddishness, integrity with unscrupulousness, and high spirituality with money-grubbing and self-seeking.

Not so long ago, Colonel N. Nesterov once again received a party reprimand. Many who knew about this story were not puzzled: in principle, is a person's conduct which is incompatible with the concepts of an officer's dignity and a communist's honor sufficiently evaluated?

9889
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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

COLONEL GENERAL AVIATION BATEKHIN ON AIR FORCES DAY

Moscow SOVETSKIY VOIN in Russian No 15, Aug 83 (signed to press 14 Jul 83)
pp 2-3

[Article by Col Gen Avn L. L. Batekhin, member of the Military Council, chief, Air Forces Political Directorate: "High Skies of the Homeland"]

[Text] On 21 August the Soviet people and the men of our valiant Armed Forces are jubilantly celebrating USSR Air Forces Day.

This year the Soviet aviators' holiday is being celebrated in an atmosphere of great political and labor activeness on the part of Soviet citizens, army and navy personnel, and extensive socialist competition for successful implementation of the historic decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress, the June (1983) CPSU Central Committee Plenum, and the targets of the core year of the 11th Five-Year Plan.

Our party has marked the 80th anniversary of the Second Congress of the Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party. Its journey is a truly heroic journey of struggle and victories. Grandiose transformations have been accomplished under its guidance, which have not only exerted decisive influence on this country's destiny, but which have also radically altered the course of world history. The Soviet people see in the CPSU their tried and proven vanguard, spokesman of their root interests, organizer of all our victories, totally support the party's domestic and foreign policy, and are campaigning vigorously for its implementation.

Our aviation is a beloved offspring of our homeland, its pride and glory, a focus of scientific and technological advances. Establishment and development of the homeland's aerial shield are inseparably linked with the name of V. I. Lenin and with the activities of the Communist Party.

Vladimir Il'ich Lenin ingeniously foresaw a great future for aviation, not only as a promising mode of transportation and communications but also as a mighty means of defending the revolutionary achievements of socialism. On V. I. Lenin's personal orders, on the third day following the victory of the Great October Revolution, on 10 November 1917, the first Soviet aviation detachment was formed, consisting of 12 aircrews, and a provisional command and control agency was established -- the Bureau of Commissars of Aviation and Aeronautics. At the end of January 1918, pursuant to the decree calling for organization of

the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, the mass formation of aviation detachments commenced. Such units as the Red-Banner Helicopter Regiment imeni V. I. Lenin and the four-times decorated Guards Fighter-Bomber Regiment imeni 50th Anniversary of the USSR trace their histories from these detachments.

History carefully preserves the names of the defenders of the homeland, who are totally dedicated to the people, to the cause of the Communist Party, to the cause of the revolution. For courage and heroism displayed on the battle fronts of the Civil War, 219 Red military pilots and aerial observers were awarded the Order of the Red Banner, 16 of these were awarded the honor twice, while it was thrice awarded to S. Monastyrev, I. Pavlov, P. Mezheraup, Ya. Moiseyev, and Ye. Ukhin.

Rapid development of aviation, including military aviation, began following the victorious end of the Civil War, during the years of peacetime construction. "Working people, build an Air Fleet!" This slogan from the beginning of the 1920's became a fighting motto in this country for a long period of time.

A unique document is preserved in the Central Party Archives at the CPSU Central Committee Institute of Marxism-Leninism -- receipt No 394, dated 3 September 1923. It states: "Received from comrades Lenin and Krupskaya, 6 10-ruble gold coins for the airplane 'Pravda'." This money was part of the first 3 million rubles in gold which were collected in this country for building the USSR Air Fleet. Ten years later, on 18 August 1933, the first mass review of the young Soviet aviation was held in Moscow. USSR Revolutionary Military Council Order No 137 stated: "Beginning with a handful of pitiful, obsolete, worn-out airplanes, the Red Military Air Fleet today soars overhead as a formidable, invincible force, guarding the land and sea borders of the Soviet Union." Since that time our country has been celebrating USSR Air Forces Day.

Industrialization, all-out development of science and technology, and labor exploits by our people on the construction projects of the first five-year plans -- all this enabled us to build a vanguard aircraft industry in this country. High-speed aircraft took to the air, designed by the staffs at the design offices of A. N. Tupolev, S. V. Il'yushin, N. N. Polikarpov, and A. S. Yakovlev. In an unprecedentedly short period of time the USSR became one of the world's leading air powers. By accomplishing a number of outstanding flights and by setting many world records with Soviet aircraft, Soviet pilots responded to the party's instructions: fly further, faster, and higher than everybody else. They also displayed great courage and grandeur of spirit of patriots and internationalists in air combat at Lake Khasan and on the Khalkhin-Gol River. The Chinese and Japanese militarists received a taste of the striking power of Soviet military aviation on the Chinese Eastern Railway. Our volunteer pilots fought with valor in the skies over Spain.

Soviet aviation honorably carried out its duty to the homeland in the Great Patriotic War.

"The glorious falcons of our homeland," stated a commendation issued by the Supreme Commander dated 19 August 1945, "have smashed the vaunted German

air forces in savage air battles, securing freedom of action for the Red Army and delivering our country's civilian population from enemy air attacks."

During the war years Soviet pilots destroyed 57,000 Hitlerite aircraft in the air and on the ground.

Our air warriors displayed unsurpassed examples of courage and heroism, selfless bravery and military valor in combat against our enemies. Every battle front rang with stories about the courage of N. Castello, V. Talalikhin, B. Safonov, A. Molodchiy, I. Polbin, N. Stepanyan, V. Rakov, P. Pokryshhev, A. Koldunov, and many other valiant Soviet falcons.

Party member and flight leader Sr Lt A. Gorovets performed an exploit on the Kursk Salient. He downed 9 enemy bombers in a single aerial engagement. Gds Sr Lt A. Kotlov destroyed 5 enemy aircraft in a single sortie.

During the war years Soviet pilots rammed the enemy in midair on more than 500 different occasions. Seventeen pilots were credited with two rammings, A. Khlobystov with three, and B. Kovzan with four. The feat performed by N. Castello's aircrrew was repeated more than 350 times.

The homeland greatly appreciated the valor of its winged sons. More than 200,000 aviation personnel were awarded decorations and medals, 2,420 were named Hero of the Soviet Union, and 65 were twice awarded this title. Famed aces A. Pokryshkin and I. Kozhedub -- currently bearing the rank of marshal aviation and colonel general aviation respectively -- were thrice named Hero of the Soviet Union. They are credited with 59 and 62 downed German vultures.

Purposeful party-political work played an important role in mobilizing aviation personnel to smash the enemy. Air forces political agencies, party and Komsomol organizations did everything possible to prepare our air warriors for a decisive, victorious clash with the enemy, to bring forth a high degree of patriotic enthusiasm, to strengthen aggressiveness, and to inspire them to perform valiant deeds. The political workers themselves were first-class experts at air combat and bombing. The combat example of political workers strengthened the prestige and authority of Communists, cemented their ranks, and constituted a call to victory.

The Soviet people have been living and working under peaceful skies for 38 years now. The Communist Party and Soviet Government are doing everything they can to provide conditions for building communism and for implementing the Peace Program formulated and adopted by the CPSU. Our numerous peace initiatives constitute evidence of this: a pledge not to be the first to employ nuclear weapons, proposals calling for mutual reduction of strategic nuclear warheads and delivery systems, proposals on limiting intermediate-range nuclear weapons in Europe, plus others.

There is no doubt whatsoever that efforts by U.S. leaders to tip in their favor the present military-strategic balance between the USSR and the United States are doomed to failure. "All attempts to achieve military superiority over the USSR," stated Comrade Yu. V. Andropov in replies to a PRAVDA correspondent, "are

in vain. The Soviet Union will never permit this; it will never be in a position of defenselessness in the face of any threat."

Air Forces personnel, just as all Soviet citizens, totally support the measures undertaken by the Communist Party and Soviet Government to strengthen this country's defense capability.

Our country's Air Forces are vigilantly guarding socialism together with the other armed services. Today they fly high-altitude, supersonic, all-weather missile-armed aircraft, carrying powerful and diversified armament, target detection and fire control equipment, modern airborne equipment and the latest navigation gear. Our Air Forces are capable of successfully accomplishing the most complex combat missions in any weather, day or night, in an all-out jamming environment, both independently and working in close teamwork and cooperation with other military branches.

The might of the Air Forces lies not only in their formidable combat equipment but first and foremost in the men who possess a skillful mastery of this equipment. The Communist Party and Soviet Government show unabating concern with training of aviation cadres who meet the demands of modern warfare, with increasing their ideological conditioning and improving their moral-political, fighting and psychological qualities.

The present generation of Air Forces personnel is carrying on in a worthy manner the combat fame of the veterans of the Air Forces, is building upon and further developing their heroic traditions. A tradition was born in one of the aviation units of the Red-Banner Transcaucasus Military District -- to award the honor of carrying out a flight assignment for Hero of the Soviet Union Lt S. Achkasov. Mission results are entered into the mission log of this Hero, who fought in the war as a member of one of the regiment's squadrons. The finest air warriors earn the honor of making an entry in this log. The results of many combat training sorties by present-generation pilots are recorded in the log alongside the personal entries on the combat missions of Lt Sergey Vasil'yevich Achkasov.

Once Military Pilot 1st Class Capt Yu. Turbinin, one of the regiment's best pilots, was assigned the mission to scramble and intercept a "hostile" aircraft which was heading for a defended installation. The pilot decided to attack the "aggressor" and destroy him with the first missile at maximum range. This was not an easy task. Within minutes after liftoff ground operators established solid radar contact with the interceptor. Thanks to the high degree of skill of the pilot and the ground control officers, the aircraft's flight recorder recorded a precision attack. The pilot performed flawlessly. And a new entry appeared in Lt S. Achkasov's flight log: "Capt Yu. Turbinin. Intercept of a maneuvering target. Downed on the first pass." This means that one more experienced pilot had been developed, a worthy successor to his regiment's war hero.

The exploits of the heroes of the last war teach pilots of the 1980's boldness in decision-making, daring in the execution of lightning-swift attacks, collectivism and mutual assistance, and a sharpened sense of responsibility for

the success of each mission. The finest traditions of wartime and traditions engendered since the war are fully encouraged. Military collectives display concern not only with preserving them but also with building upon and further developing them. The names of many of today's pilots stand side by side with the names of famed combat aces of the war. These include fliers B. Ryabtsev, B. Kapustin, Yu. Yanov, P. Shklyaruk and others who have accomplished exploits in peacetime. They include Heroes of the Soviet Union G. Yeliseyev, V. Gaynutdinov, V. Shcherbakov, Ye. Zel'nyakov, V. Kot, and V. Pavlov.

During a tactical flight exercise a serious problem developed with the aircraft being flown by excellent aircraft commander Capt S. Yerokhin. The aircraft was lined up on an attack run at the time, about to fire a missile. The aircrew kept its composure, took all steps to utilize the capabilities of the aircraft systems, locked onto the target and fired the missile, which hit the target with a mark of excellent.

The cited examples, and they are far from isolated, attest to the fact that the morale of airmen of the present generation is quite high and that they are serving the homeland in a selfless manner.

The "Shchit-82" [Shield-82] and "Soyuz-83" [Alliance-83] exercises demonstrated the increased air proficiency of our aviation personnel and their readiness and willingness to perform any task assigned by the homeland pertaining to defense of socialist achievements and the peaceful labor of the Soviet people.

Socialist competition for successful accomplishment of the tasks for 1983, under the slogan "Increase vigilance, reliably ensure the security of the homeland!" is presently taking place on an expanding scale in aviation units, just as throughout the Armed Forces.

The aviation units in which officers V. Vorob'yev, A. Derbenev, V. Ivanov, Z. Ziganshin, Yu. Kolesnikov, G. Kochergin, V. Mavriniskiy, A. Pavlenko, V. Rebrov, and others are serving have honored in a worthy manner the 80th anniversary of the Second Congress of the Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party.

A personal example in military labor is displayed by pilot-sharpshooter Lt Col A. Stolyarov, navigator-sharpshooter Lt Col V. Gorodetskiy, aviation engineer service officers A. Abbasov, A. Rybkin, A. Tomashevskiy, and others.

The work style of Air Forces command and political personnel is distinguished by daily concern for people and regard for military cadres. Deputy squadron commander for political affairs military pilot 1st class Maj V. Kopchikov has a sensitive attitude toward people. For him there are no trivial matters in his work. Considering himself responsible for all things, he is always ready to respond to people's joys and sorrows, following the behest of his heart.

Stationed in Afghanistan as a member of the limited Soviet forces, Kopchikov on numerous occasions put his helicopter down in inaccessible areas, on postage-stamp sites by mountain villages, assisting people who had suffered at the hands of the dushman [antigovernment forces]. His helicopter crew saved many peasants from certain death. In his work Kopchikov always takes counsel with

Communists. Whether he is formulating plans or organizing a mass-political activity, he always discusses them with squadron party bureau secretary Capt Yu. Lebedev and with subunit executive officer Capt A. Klimanov.

The homeland rightly honored this officer's military accomplishments, awarding him the Order of Lenin and the Order of the Red Banner.

Officers A. Ilyukhin, N. Biryukov, and others have demonstrated themselves to be knowledgeable, respected political workers in Air Forces units. They skillfully construct their work to indoctrinate servicemen in a spirit of love for and devotion to the socialist homeland, burning hatred toward its enemies, and to mobilize personnel for high-quality performance of assigned tasks.

Air Forces military councils, commanders, political agencies, and party organizations, increasing party influence on all aspects of the daily activities of aviation units and subunits, devote much attention to ideological indoctrination work and implementation of the guidelines of the 26th CPSU Congress and June (1983) CPSU Central Committee Plenum on ideological matters. Main emphasis is placed on instilling in aviation personnel Communist conviction, patriotism and socialist internationalism, a personal sense of responsibility for increasing combat readiness, vigilance, organization, and discipline, for ensuring mishap-free flight operations.

Military aviation personnel, faithful sons of the Soviet people, solidly ranked behind the Communist Party and its Central Committee, vigilantly and watchfully guard the homeland's airspace and are in a continuous state of combat readiness, guaranteeing a resolute rebuff to any aggressor.

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

STUDENT PILOT SUCCESSFULLY LANDS PLANE AFTER ENGINE PROBLEM

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Aug 83 p 2

[Article by Major B. Makarevich: "Test Incident"]

[Text] By order of the Air Force commander in chief of the Red Banner North Caucasian Military District, for courage, composure and high professional skill demonstrated at a difficult moment in the air, student Vladimir Nosov of the Armavir Higher Military Aviation School for Pilots is awarded a watch inscribed with his name.

Another routine flying day had begun for the training regiment. The runway would have reminded one of a conveyor. One after another the aircraft streaked into the sky, returned from the zone, landed and then taxied back to the take-off position. It looked like nothing could break up the rhythm of this particular training day.

But then suddenly a transmission from the air:

"This is 520! When I pushed the throttle all the way forward at the top of my normal inside loop I lost speed."

This report, transmitted as it was with this quiet emphasis by student Nosov from within the zone, struck fear in the hearts of the aviators below. What could have happened? Did they have a birdstrike? How was the student going to handle the situation?

All eyes turned in the direction of the runway. Vladimir Nosov was precisely executing the instructions he received from the ground. After cleanly completing his maneuver, he actuated the isolator valve to increase the capacity of his fuel pump. There now remained only one thing to do—to try to make it back to the air field at reduced engine speed.

They started 520 into his landing pattern several hundred meters higher than is usual. These extra meters were an invaluable aid when Nosov extended his landing gear and suddenly saw that his engine speed had dropped still lower. He could now maintain speed only with his descent. The ground appeared to be speeding toward him faster and faster. Vladimir now realized he wasn't going to make it to the end of the runway. His choices had now been narrowed to two: either bail out or put the aircraft down in a field.

The ground was rushing up to meet him; the chances of being able to correct even the slightest piloting error were becoming smaller and smaller. Even former aces would have considered the tiny area Nosov was approaching for his landing to be too small. These feverish seconds demanded an enormous exertion of will, courage and skill from this beginning pilot, a student in only his second course. Vladimir Nosov found all these resources within himself, his senior comrades point out later. He landed his aircraft where he had intended to and was able to bring it to a stop a few tens of meters from an earthen embankment and some telegraph poles.

I had heard good things about student Nosov, a young man from the small settlement of Usinsk in the Komi ASSR, quite a while before this particular incident occurred. He, a member of his Komsomol committee and a student who had accumulated an outstanding record in his training program, had been the first in his class to be accepted as a candidate for membership in the CPSU.

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

TWO MOST UNSUITABLE CANDIDATES SELECTED FOR FLIGHT SCHOOL

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Aug 83 p 2

[Article by Major V. Vladimirov: "Trips Like This..."]

[Text] Junior Sergeant Badayev had loved music since he was a child and had decided to devote his life to it. It should be pointed out here at the outset that as a youngster, Vladimir had been a standout musician in a vocal-instrumental ensemble; and after he was called up for his military service he became a drummer for a military orchestra in one of the units in the Odessa military district.

In the opinion of his director, Major S. Protopopov, the junior sergeant was performing his duties satisfactorily. Some of his fellow service members, however, noticed that Badayev had for one reason or another begun to lose himself in thought occasionally, staring blankly off into space, and to sing only songs that had to do with aviation. But when the junior sergeant began to talk about his burning desire to go to the flight training school in Saratov everybody was astounded: Good heavens! To think we've known him this well this long and we still had no idea of this secret dream of his.

Major S. Protopopov, however, did not trouble himself much with taking time out to talk with his subordinate, but rather simply wished him well on his long journey.

Badayev passed the commission's rigorous medical examination: he was in unexceptionable health, but he then refused to take the entrance examinations. "I've changed my mind," he declared during the professional psychological screening.

Now Sergeant Vladimir Gerin, on the other hand, showed up punctually for all his examinations, but failed to answer any questions. He would only shrug his shoulders. Judging by everything one could learn, the duty was fast-paced and strenuous in the Moscow military-district artillery unit to which Gerin was assigned. So the senior sergeant had apparently decided simply to take off for a while, particularly seeing as how he had at the same time conceived a particular liking for this city on the Volga.

At any rate, the author of these lines had an opportunity to acquaint himself with Badayev and Gerin under circumstances which were not entirely normal. Both men failed to turn up for evening roll call. Then they showed up in front of the

school duty officer a couple of hours or so after taps. Junior sergeant V. Badayev in his elegant career NCO's uniform, Senior Sergeant V. Gerin in jeans and a jacket. They had very cleverly thought to bring all this with them.

How inadequately and superficially some units analyze the morale and professional qualities of some of the people they recommend for advanced training courses! In the meantime these outings to the military schools and back are costing the state a pretty penny.

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NAVAL FORCES

ADMIRAL KAPITANETS ON SOVIET NAVY DAY

Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 31 J-1 83 p 2

[Article by Adm I. Kapitanets, commander, twice Red Banner Baltic Fleet: "Ocean-Going, Missile-Carrying"]

[Text] The Soviet people and the men of the Armed Forces are marking a traditional holiday--Soviet Navy Day--in an atmosphere of labor and patriotic enthusiasm caused by the decisions of the June (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central committee. The seamen unanimously approve the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee and session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the election of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Comrade Yu. V. Andropov, as Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and they support the party's domestic and foreign policy. The Soviet seamen are proud of the achievements of the country of developed socialism and express their readiness to increase their contribution to the strengthening of the motherland's economic and defensive might and reliably defend the peaceful labor of our people.

The Soviet Navy has travelled a great and glorious path of development, absorbing the best combat and revolutionary traditions of the Russian fleet. Detachments of seamen covered themselves with unfading glory during the years of the Civil War. Men in sailor hats and peajackets, engirdled with machinegun belts, fearlessly joined in the struggle with the enemies and are glorified in legends and songs. The seamen of the Red Navy fought heroically at sea and as part of river and lake flotillas.

The Soviet naval forces and naval aviation displayed the greatest courage, heroism, and will for victory in the Great Patriotic War. They sank more than 1,300 enemy combat ships and auxiliary vessels and 1,400 enemy transports.

The Baltic seamen accomplished their duty to the motherland to the end in battles with the hated enemy. The breakthrough of ships and vessels from Tallinn to Kronstadt which was unparalleled in complexity has gone down in the history of naval art. The valiant defenders of Krasnyy Gangut steadfastly repelled furious enemy attacks from the land, sea, and air for 160 days. The fascists tried to assault Khanko 36 times but they suffered defeat each time. The first bombing of the fascist capital, Berlin, was an important event in the Great Patriotic War. It was conducted by fearless and courageous pilots of our fleet under the command of Colonel Ye. Preobrazhenskiy.

The enemy came to know completely the force of the strikes by the Baltic seamen. During the war years, they sank 320 transport vessels and 280 combat ships, and they damaged 313 enemy vessels and ships. The motherland evaluated highly the exploits of the seamen, 100,000 of them were awarded orders and medals, 158 members of the Baltic Fleet were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, 23 ships and units became Guards elements, and 64 became order-bearing.

In the postwar years our fleet, just as all the services of the Soviet Armed Forces, is standing vigilant guard over the motherland's security. The Soviet men know well that the West's imperialist circles are continuing to increase the arms race and strengthen the NATO aggressive bloc, and they are developing new systems and types of weapons of mass destruction. The deployment of new American medium range nuclear missiles on the territory of Western Europe which is planned for the end of this year represents a special danger for the cause of peace.

In the Pentagon, they cherish the mad thought of the possibility of victory in a nuclear clash and are nurturing absurd plans for the conduct of both long and limited war. Under these conditions, the entire combat and indoctrinal activity of our commanders and political officers is directed toward raising combat readiness and political vigilance. The men of the Baltic Fleet are tirelessly improving their military skill and preparing themselves for the accomplishment of the missions which the motherland has assigned to them. Together with their brothers-in-arms--the men of the Armed Forces of the other Warsaw Pact states--they are reliably guarding socialism's great achievements.

The personnel of the Baltic Fleet and the troops of the Red Banner Baltic Military District are demonstrating the firm alloying of a high level of technical equipping, military skill, and invincible morale. The "Scyuz [Alliance]-83" command-post exercise which took place recently was an examination for combat maturity and a report to the Communist Party and the Soviet people. The combat friendship between the seamen and soldiers which was born in the battles of the Great Patriotic War is developing and strengthening in peacetime.

Today the Soviet Navy is a qualitatively new, ocean-going and missile-carrying fleet which meets all requirements of modern war. Great spatial scale of operations and the ability to deploy its forces secretly and quickly and launch crushing strikes at enemy objectives at sea and on land have become its typical features. Our fleet concentrates within itself the latest achievements of science and technology; it has improved electronic and automation equipment for the control of weapons and combat equipment and reliable means of communication and navigation in any area of the world ocean.

The fleet's routine training days are long ocean cruises. Naval training is comprehended here, skill in the mastery of weapons and equipment is improved, the fighting nature of the personnel is tempered, and the ability to struggle with a strong, well armed enemy is acquired.

This training year the crews of the submarines commanded by Captains 2d Rank A. Golovchenko and S. Shkabara achieved high grades in combat and political training and the accomplishment of missile, gunnery, and torpedo firings. There are many good deeds to the credit of the crew of the large antisubmarine warfare

ship "Obraztsovyy," the seamen of the missile subunit in which Lieutenant Colonel V. Kozub serves, and the aviators of the unit commanded by Colonel V. Smirnov.

Socialist competition under the slogan, "Raise vigilance, reliably ensure the security of the motherland," which was widely initiated in the fleet is helping to achieve the level of combat and political training necessary today. The communists and Komsomols are marching in the front ranks of the struggle for high results in training and service. They step forth as the initiators of many patriotic undertakings and present a high personal example.

Envoy of Soviet Latvia are performing their patriotic duty in an exemplary manner in the single multinational combat formation of the Baltic seamen. Great authority in the military collectives is enjoyed by officers Ya. Lochmelis and A. Maurin'sh, Warrant Officer [michman] K. Zhal'pis, Petty Officer 2d Class A. Grindvals, Senior Seaman E. Tselitans, and Seaman D. Kukul'. These are first-class specialists and experts of combat and political training who know their business.

The patronage ties of the Baltic seamen with the labor collectives and various public organizations, cultural institutions, and educational institutions of the Latvian SSR are becoming stronger from year to year. And we are grateful to the Central Committee of the Latvian Communist Party and the republic's Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and government as well as to local party, Soviet, and Komsomol organs and all our good friends for constant attention, assistance, and support.

On the day of our holiday, we assure the Soviet people and our native Communist Party that the seamen of the twice Red Banner Baltic Fleet will always display high readiness for the defense of the motherland and the achievements of socialism and will do everything necessary to constantly strengthen and improve the fatherland's ocean shield.

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NAVAL FORCES

ADMIRAL KOTOV EXTOLS NAVY ON NAVY DAY

Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 31 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by Engr-Adm P. Kotov, deputy commander of the Navy, Hero of Socialist Labor: "Guarding the Sea Boundaries"]

[Text] On the last Sunday of July each year, the maritime cities of our immense motherland are clothed in holiday attire.

Wherever a Soviet seaman may be on this day--in the most distant corner of the world ocean, at his battle station, or on leave--his heart is festive and joyous. He feels personal participation in the motherland's great achievements, the constant concern of the party and the government for its reliable defense, the love of the people, and his high responsibility for the accomplishment of his honorable constitutional military duty.

Under conditions of the ever increasing aggressiveness of imperialism, the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet government were forced to implement measures to ensure the country's security. One such measure was the creation of a qualitatively new ocean-going, nuclear missile fleet which meets all requirements of contemporary war. Great spatial scale of operations, the ability to deploy its forces secretly and quickly and launch crushing strikes against enemy objectives at sea and on land, and the constant high combat readiness of the units and large units became its characteristic features.

Now nuclear submarines are the primary means capable of accomplishing the fleet's basic missions. Of all the classes of ships, they meet the requirements of contemporary war to the greatest degree.

Soviet nuclear submarines demonstrated their excellent sea-going qualities under the age-old ice of the North Pole as well as in the tropical latitudes during round-the-world voyages. For outstanding exploits and the skillful use of combat equipment, during days of peace many submariners have been awarded orders and medals. The family of seamen who are Heroes of the Soviet Union is growing.

Our fleet also has missile, antisubmarine, antimine, assault-landing, and other surface ships. Among them are such powerful ships as the "Kiev" and "Minsk" antisubmarine warfare [ASW] cruisers and the nuclear cruiser "Kirov." They are

armed with contemporary combat equipment and possess excellent sea-going qualities. Helicopters and airplanes rise into the sky from the decks of these ships on the first signal. Antisubmarine weapons are faultless. Swift missiles watchfully look at the zenith.

Missile-carrying and antisubmarine naval aviation opened up new possibilities for building up the combat might of our fleet and increasing the mobility of its strike forces. The pilots of naval aviation master complex aviation and missile equipment to perfection, fly confidently over the boundless expanses of the oceans, and successfully accomplish their assigned missions.

The naval infantry which was renowned during the years of the Great Patriotic War has been reconstituted on a new technical basis. Now it is capable of launching powerful, surprise strikes on the most important directions and at the rear area and flanks of enemy groupings near the sea and rendering reliable support to our ground forces.

Our people can rightly consider the creation of a mighty contemporary fleet one of the most outstanding labor exploits. The birth of new ships and aircraft, power plants, and weapons, communication, and control systems required tremendous expenditures of strength and energy, creative searches, and the inspiration of many collectives of scientists, designers, engineers, and workers. The seamen regard with respect and gratitude the selfless labor of the shipbuilders, the workers of the defense industry, and all Soviet people who are creating the fleet's material-technical base.

The creation of an ocean-going nuclear-missile fleet capable of accomplishing strategic missions is an important event which scattered the illusory hopes of the imperialist aggressors that they do not have a strong enemy on the sea.

A noteworthy feature of today's fleet is the high level of the general educational, ideological, and professional military training of its command and political personnel. Admirals, generals, and officers--as a rule these are people with an academic education who possess profound, comprehensive knowledge and great practical experience in the organization of effective combat and political training of the personnel. Their ideological conviction and scientific Marxist-Leninist world outlook determine the active life's position which is manifested first of all in the tireless struggle for the high combat readiness of ships and subunits.

Today the fleet's routine training days are long ocean cruises. It is namely there, under the conditions of severe long voyages, that naval art is understood, skill in mastering weapons and equipment is improved, a fighting character is tempered, and the ability to wage a struggle with a strong, well-armed enemy is found.

"Raise vigilance, reliably ensure the security of the motherland"--this is the competition slogan for the current training year. The honor to be its initiator was awarded to the crew of the nuclear missile submarine commanded by Captain 1st Rank A. Samokhvalov. A stubborn struggle for the punctual accomplishment of all obligations assumed is under way on the ship.

During a stay with the Red Banner Northern Fleet member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and Soviet Minister of Defense, Marshal of the Soviet Union D. F. Ustinov, noted the good training of the crew of the nuclear cruiser "Kirov." He called upon the men to learn to fight in the contemporary manner and to struggle against indulgences and simplification in combat training. It is namely in this manner, in evaluating the results of one's daily military labor self-critically, that advancement toward new positions in combat readiness is attained by many ship and coastal fleet combat collectives.

Party and Komsomol organizations come forth as the political nucleus of the fleet collectives. They operate in the very thick of the masses of servicemen and, with all their work, further the realization of the party's policy in the field of strengthening the country's defense, and ensure unremitting influence on all aspects of the men's life and combat and political training.

Our Navy participates actively in the foreign-policy measures of its state and furthers the conduct of a policy of friendship between peoples and of peaceful economic and cultural collaboration as well as the strengthening and development of our country's ties with the peoples of many countries and continents.

The Navy is accomplishing its missions within the framework of the Warsaw Pact Organization with honor. The ties of the allied fleets are constantly being strengthened, the broad exchange of experience in combat and political training takes place, and joint measures are conducted, including big exercises and maneuvers. Such cruises and exercises permit improving the coordination of the personnel, generating a unity of views on the most important questions of military art, improving the training of commanders and staffs, and improving the sea, air, and field training of the troops.

Our fleet threatens no one, but it is always ready to defend reliably the state interests of the Country of Soviets and the entire socialist commonwealth against the military adventures of the enemies of peace and security of peoples.

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NAVAL FORCES

CHERNAVIN EXTOLS NAVY ON NAVY DAY

Kishinev SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIYA in Russian 31 Jul 83 pp 1-2

[Article by Admiral V. N. Chernavin, chief of main naval staff: "Peacekeepers at Sea"]

[Text] The last Sunday in July the Soviet people celebrate a national day of recognition—Navy Day, which honors their men in the navy, navy veterans and the developers and builders of today's ships, weapons and equipment.

Navy Day this year comes at a time of a great upsurge of political and labor enthusiasm. Socialist competition is gaining momentum for successful implementation of the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress, the June (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the 8th sitting of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The tasks to be accomplished toward the building of communism these bodies have formulated and now set forth in concrete terms are inspiring the Soviet people to new achievement in the name of increasing the country's economic strength and defense capability.

As do all our people, the members of our Armed Forces unanimously and enthusiastically endorse and support the CPSU's domestic and foreign policies. They see their patriotic and international duty to lie in maintaining a vigilant watch over the great achievements of socialism and in keeping themselves continuously in readiness to deal a crushing rebuff to any aggressor.

With the sharply increased danger of war that prevails today, the Communist Party and Soviet Government are putting forth enormous efforts to avert the danger of nuclear catastrophe and to bring about a radical improvement in international relations. Materials coming out of the June (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the 8th sitting of the 10th convocation of the USSR Supreme Soviet provide convincing new confirmation of this.

While pursuing its consistent and purposeful efforts to bring about an improvement in the international situation and strengthen national security, the USSR is at the same time taking steps to upgrade its defensive capability. "We will continue in the future to do everything necessary to maintain the security of our country as well as the security of our friends and allies," Comrade Yu. V. Andropov declared in a speech at the June CPSU Central Committee plenum. "We are going to upgrade the combat strength of the Soviet Armed Forces, a powerful factor in containing the aggressive drives of imperialist reaction."

The unity of the USSR's peaceloving foreign policy and its readiness to deal an appropriate rebuff to any aggressor constitutes the basis of Soviet military doctrine as well as of the organization and training of the Army and Navy, the creation of which is inextricably linked with the name and work of Vladimir Il'ich Lenin.

The decisions of the 10th Party Congress on military questions constituted a most important landmark in the history of our navy. At the suggestion of V. I. Lenin, the congress adopted a special decree calling for the recreation and upgrading of a Red Navy and for taking steps necessary to man it with personnel dedicated to the revolution. In 1922 the 5th All-Russian Congress of the Russian Communist Youth League placed the Lenin Komsomol in role of sponsor of the new navy.

In recognition of the important role the country's navy was playing in increasing its defense capability, the USSR Council of Ministers and the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) adopted a special decree in June 1939 establishing a Navy Day.

The purposeful efforts undertaken by the Communist Party and responsible officials in our political organs and party organizations during the period before the war to provide the Soviet Armed Forces with new weapons and equipment and to indoctrinate their personnel in the spirit of boundless love for the motherland, Soviet patriotism and friendship between peoples and in a spirit of great political vigilance, discipline and combat readiness made it possible for our seamen to demonstrate their very best qualities from the earliest days of the fascist invasion.

The Navy's ships and planes sank more than 2500 enemy ships, transports and auxiliary craft. For deeds of valor performed in battle against the fascists, over 350,000 of our seamen were presented orders and medals, over 513 awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union, seven of these being honored with this title a second time. The colors of 238 of our ships and units with the best combat records were decorated with orders, 78 of these achieving the Guards distinction. Together with other Soviet military formations, Navy forces [soyedineniye], units [chast'] and subunits [podrazdeleniye] helped liberate both our own towns and towns in European countries from the occupying aggressors and brought freedom and peace to the peoples of Europe.

The postwar years saw Navy personnel add heroic new pages to the existing record of their glorious deeds. Everybody knows, for example, about the cruises our nuclear-powered submarines made under the age-old ice to the North Pole and the inaccessible regions of the central Arctic as well as the accomplishment by our nuclear-powered submarines of the world's first group circumnavigation of the globe.

Soviet seamen are rendering reliable service to the cause of peace; they are training consistently so as to maintain themselves continuously in readiness to repel an attack by any aggressor. Thanks to the concern demonstrated by the Communist Party and Soviet Government, our Navy has been provided with the most advanced weapons and equipment.

Along with other services of the Soviet Armed Forces, the Navy, too, has undergone fundamental change, becoming a true blue-water navy in the process. It now represents a harmonious combination of submarines, naval aviation, surface ships and other branches of the service. Together with the strategic rocket forces, the Navy has become our most important means of accomplishing our strategic missions.

Our nuclear-powered submarines, the Navy's primary striking force, are the nation's pride; it also disposes of missile-carrying, antisubmarine, antimine, assault landing and other types of surface ships, all equipped with the most advanced weaponry. These would include such giants as the ASW cruisers Kiev, Minsk and Novorossiysk and the nuclear-powered guided missile cruiser Kirov. Also offering major combat capabilities are our naval missile-carrying and ASW aircraft. The naval infantry, famous for its exploits during the Great Patriotic War, has been reorganized on a new technical base.

The development of today's powerful navy is a triumph for the labors of our people and a product of the selfless efforts of our scientists, designers, engineers and workers.

The continuous technical improvement and upgrading of our ships and naval units do not constitute an expression of any "Soviet threat," but rather a retaliatory measure forced upon us by attempts on the part of imperialist circles to shift the military balance in their favor whatever the cost.

The basis of the strength of our armed forces is their people—Soviet fighting men indoctrinated by the party, ardent patriots and internationalists and unshakable defenders of the cause of peace and socialism. But the ocean is the primary school for our navy personnel. It is here, under the rigorous conditions of extended cruises, that they develop their understanding of naval science, improve their practical skills, steel their fighting spirits, develop morale and the necessary psychological qualities and in general acquire the skills and abilities required to do battle with a powerful, well-armed, well-trained enemy. It is here at sea that both homogeneous and combined naval forces learn how to cooperate and coordinate operations and where we develop more effective methods and procedures for employing our weapons, for controlling operations and for accomplishing both tactical and fire missions.

As in other services of our armed forces, the Navy, too, is broadening its effort to achieve new heights in the performance of its military mission. The crews of our submarines and surface ships, naval aviators and the personnel of our land-based units and subunits worked intensively over the course of the winter training period. They have achieved even greater successes during their summer training.

The seamen of our Navy are striving intensely to accomplish the tasks set them by the 26th Party Congress and the June (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee of working for greater increases in the defensive capability of the Armed Forces.

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NAVAL FORCES

INADEQUACIES NOTED IN TRAINING EXERCISE

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Aug 83 p 1

[Article by Captain 2d Rank A. Zlydnev, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, Red Banner Pacific Ocean Fleet: "Only One Request..., Why a Training Ship Rests Idle"]

[Text] Senior Warrant Officer V. Rybak, the commander of this training ship, has already greeted me more than once with the curt phrase: "Nobody today!" At the same time there are ships here whose crews are sorely in need of developing and reinforcing the practical skills required to deal with water and fire emergencies. Where, if not on a training ship that's one of the best in the fleet, can you teach seamen to seal holes and put out fires? The training ship is equipped with everything you need for this. Its experienced instructors can at any time create situations in their training rooms which to the maximum extent possible approximate those which would be encountered in actual combat. But the utilization factor for the training ship is nonetheless sometimes little more than 35 per cent.

This is a depressing figure, quite frankly. The training facilities here are indeed being put to precious little use. And then when they are used it's mainly for the purpose of training ship damage-control parties. But the fact is that every crew member, regardless of his responsibilities and speciality, is required to be capable of performing damage-control functions and maintaining a ship's weapons and equipment in operating condition. This is a requirement imposed by the Navy's Shipboard Regulations, one of whose articles states most clearly and concisely: "Commanders (chiefs) must instruct their subordinates in procedures and methods employed in maintaining a ship's watertight integrity and the material condition of closure, in fighting fires and dealing with dangerous concentrations of gases (harmful substances) and in maintaining weapons and equipment in operating condition and is responsible for the readiness of his subordinates."

Unfortunately, however, not all ship unit officers are familiar with this clear-cut regulation requirement. We would otherwise not see drills like the one Senior Lieutenant Engineer A. Pasyutin held one time. He showed up on the training ship without any really clear notion of what he was supposed to teach his men and how. He had neither prepared a training plan nor properly briefed his men before attempting to begin this flood-control drill. When they got down to their positions his men really didn't have any clear idea of what they were supposed to do. Pasyutin himself didn't even get around to putting on a diving suit, but rather paced the viewing platform in the role of an outside observer.

This particular drill, of course, had to be cancelled. But unfortunately, none of the senior lieutenant-engineer's superiors seemed to be upset by the way the thing had turned out and none was to be found insisting that it be rescheduled. The crew of the ship Pasyutin serves on has obviously forgotten the words of Admiral S. O. Makarov: "The human constitution is such that a man will go to a certain death if he knows danger, but is nevertheless frightened even of the noise of bilge water if he hasn't become accustomed to it. If you can get people used to it, they'll work to seal any hole under even the most extreme conditions."

Let us point out here, incidentally, that a poster with this statement by the famous naval commander hangs on one of the bulkheads on the training ship, and it's impossible for it not to catch your attention. But ships officers are still a fairly infrequent sight on board here. "I don't even know all the heads of the engineering departments," Senior Warrant Officer V. Rybak observes. "This, of course, is not to mention any of the other officers...."

What you hear from Rybak finds confirmation in the view expressed by Senior Lieutenant S. Trifonov, a political officer on one of the other ships here: "During the four years I have served here in this unit, I don't recall a single instance in which officers put in any time on the training ship. People say this used to be considered more important...."

In the interest of complete accuracy it should be pointed out that ships officers and warrant officers do indeed undergo training here. At the very beginning of the current training year a number of groups were in fact "run through" the training ship, but the truth is that regulations require all officers and warrant officers without exception to undergo this training every quarter. This should become the objective of some socialist competition. But the obligations of most of the officers and warrant officers still only mention damage control. On top of that, these references are not really specific; so they in fact don't obligate anybody to do anything, and it's virtually impossible to check on fulfillment.

Responsibility for these deficiencies lies primarily with the unit headquarters, which is supposed to monitor the various shipboard situations very closely. Not just from one inspection to the next, but rather continuously so as to insure that training programs are well-planned, objective-oriented and designed so as to make maximum use of training facilities. The time-tested training principle "Do as I do" should never be forgotten. This means that headquarters staff officers themselves should receive systematic training in facilities aboard the training ship.

Unfortunately, however, unit staff officers are not found aboard the training ship in the role of trainees. "We have been neglecting this altogether," the chief of staff here agrees, "but we are trying to rectify the situation." It is devoutly to be wished that they succeed.

...As I left the training ship that evening, I asked Senior Warrant Officer V. Rybak to show me his request log showing who had training scheduled in the immediate future. Only one damage-control party had so far requested to be scheduled for training.

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NAVAL FORCES

NAVY'S CABLE-LAYING SHIP DONETS DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Aug 83 p 2

[Article by Capt-Lt O. Odnokolenko: "Underwater Trunk Line"]

[Text] I recently read that about 30 cable ships exist in the world. It would be interesting to learn about such vessels or ships of the Navy.

Captain S. Petrov

Among the ships waiting for the end of the bad weather at the anchorage point, the cable ship "Donets" looked like a dandy. We waited for permission to enter the base for two hours, and almost all this time the commander of our escort ship kept the cable layer as the butt of caustic comments. To listen to him, lieutenants who are beginning their service on the "white steamers" cease to be sailors in a year, and the seamen who are working on the deck of valuable species of wood lose their skill altogether. And already quite angry, the officer called the "Donets" a "weak-willed craft" for the white coloring of the sides.

By the way, he had to abandon his condescending tone rather quickly. The "Donets" and our escort ship moored almost side by side in the harbor. And while the SKR [escort vessel] occupied an "exit approach" position, on the cable ship they swung out the gangway. It became clear that the sea training of the "Donets" was just as good.

If the "Donets" could fill out a questionnaire like a person, we would have the opportunity to read the following: "Profession--cable ship. Type of work--repair and laying of underwater cables for trunk lines of communication. I trace my family tree to the steam tug 'Goliad' which laid the first underwater cable line across the straits of the Pas de Calais in 1850..."

The pioneer of the cable fleet had extremely limited capabilities and, therefore, according to today's concepts it performed trivial work. To lay 45 kilometers of cable at a depth of 55 meters is simply child's play for a contemporary cable vessel. The executive officer of the KS [cable vessel] "Donets," Captain 3d Rank V. Zhdanov, reasoned in approximately this way.

During the talk, the officer expressed himself very precisely about the essence of his somewhat unusual profession: "Seas and oceans separate continents, and

cable communication lines draw them together." These words were uttered in the mess of the "Donets" at a reproduction of a picture which was an engraving of the laying of the trans-Atlantic telegraph line and therefore again recalled history.

The year was 1858. The first trans-Atlantic communication line 3,750 kilometers long was laid between Europe and America. This line existed for less than a month and they were able to transmit about 400 telegraph reports over it. Then the insulation failed and the cable "fell silent" forever. In 1865 there was the second unsuccessful attempt to lay a telegraph bridge between the continents. And only in 1866 did the steamship "Great Eastern" lay a cable from Ireland to Newfoundland.

Of course, much has changed during the many-year's history of underwater cable lines, including the cable ships. The "Donets" is a contemporary diesel-electric vessel of the auxiliary fleet which is capable of accomplishing the most diverse work connected with the servicing of underwater communication lines.

An interesting detail. If usually they first try to show a guest on ships the wardroom, on the "Donets" they first lead him to the cable deck. Outwardly, it is a tremendous hangar which stretched from the bow to the stern.

Cable work is under way. A usual matter for the crew of the "Donets." Cable is raised from the bottom, inspected, and again laid in the sea. It has already worked fairly well and preventive maintenance is necessary. With the speed of a pedestrian a thick cable appears and slides down into the deep, passing through the vessel over thick pulleys. The chief of the cable party, Captain-Lieutenant A. Popov, attentively looks after all this "business." By the way, not only he. What isn't noticed by the specialist who fixes the eye of the television camera with impartial clarity. And then the commander of the excellent section of television operators, Petty Officer 2d Class A. Ivanov, establishes communication with the chief of the shift....

Let us assume that the television camera noticed a so-called kink--a loop tightened into a knot. If necessity requires, thekink is cut out by a special small turbomachine with which the jags are cut from a cable of any strength. Then the ends are smoothed and joined. A sleeve is placed over the connection. This work is not so rapid, and requires special skills and abilities. Petty Officer 2d Class V. Petukhov and Seaman D. Chernykh are already considered experienced specialists, but even they had the occasion to do the work again.

"It is more visible to Warrant Officer [michman] Yelkov...," they say in such cases.

And it is more visible to Yelkov because he is an X-ray technician. Before lowering the next coupling over the side, it is turned over to Warrant Officer V. Yelkov. On the ship they have become accustomed to work with the highest reliability.

For the present, there have been no unpleasant surprises. The cable goes into the sea water at a measured rate, is refracted, changes color, and "dissolves" in the deep. But here the grapnel (a special device for sweeping and gripping the cable) caught the sharp-clawed lug of the next section of cable--and it suddenly broke away, suspended vertically through a roller--the bow sheave.

"Evidently, it was broken by the sweeping board," Senior Seaman M. Yevstaf'yev suggested.

He quickly prepared the cable locator for operation and made the necessary measurements. Now it was necessary to eject the suspended end. The sheaves of the cable machines began to turn, revolution after revolution. And forward-looking Petty Officer 1st Class V. Trushin suddenly shouted.

"Stop! Bomb!"

Fearing that they did not understand him, he immediately repeated his alarming report. And only after the executive officer appeared on the forecastle did Petty Officer 1st Class Trushin lower his arm which was cramped from tension. A plastic microphone seemed to him to be as heavy as a weight.

They attentively examined the dangerous find which had been lifted from the bottom of the sea. It turned out that it was not a bomb, but a torpedo. Broken in two, it hung on the cable literally several meters from the roller. If it was a little bit closer....

"It is not dangerously explosive," the executive officer determined confidently. "The torpedo is without a warhead, we will get rid of it."

Tying a safety rope around himself, Petty Officer 1st Class V. Trushin crawled over the side to accomplish the order. Only later, receiving a medal, "For Distinction in Military Service," 2d Class, he recalled that it was a little frightful. But then he did not give that appearance: it must be done.

How magical these words sound. It must--and the entire cable party grabs the slippery cable simultaneously, helping the machine. It must--and the cook, Senior Seaman O. Sabirov, prepares an excellent dinner even in a storm. Just say "it must." Say it to anyone. Such readiness for extraordinary and unexpected as well as daily tests are inherent in all Soviet servicemen. And it is always instilled and developed by commanders, political officers, and their personal example.

The chief of the cable party, Captain-Lieutenant A. Popov, could tell about many such cases from his practice. But he believes that these are regular working features.

One such working feature occurred in winter. The "Donets" lay a run of cable along the bottom of the sea for long days. Three hundred meters remained to the shore. Here a special tow truck was to receive the baton from the laying. But prior to it, the cable had to be delivered. A boat was lowered. However, slush ice hampered it in approaching the shore. Thirty meters hindered the entire matter.

Taking the conductor in his hands--the end by which he later also dragged the cable, Captain-Lieutenant A. Popov dropped over the side. Now he swam, raking away the prickly ice with his hands, now he walked, separating the slush with his chest. The communication which they greatly awaited was established on time.

Listening to their stories of how sometimes the cable group must work up to the waist in silt washed from the cable and that special coveralls are issued for this, it was not believed: the "Donets" sparkled with cleanliness, as if it slid down the ways yesterday. The sentence dropped by the boatswain is automatically recalled: "It is more difficult for a ship to wear a 'white shirt'."

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